



THE INDEPENDENT

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30-PAGE NEWS SECTION

24-PAGE BROADSHEET REVIEW



Tiger Woods in overdrive

7 PAGES OF SPORT



What's wrong with Puttnam?

WEDNESDAY REVIEW FRONT



Julie Burchill in the hot seat

YOU ASK THE QUESTIONS



Mourners carry the coffins of Richard, Mark and Jason Quinn, the three brothers murdered in a firebomb attack on their Co Antrim home on Sunday morning David Rose

'The only sound was of crying and shutters clicking'

ON another day some of the Quinn family men might look fierce, with their pierced ears and eyebrows, flamboyant tattoos and haircuts so short that you can see the scalp. But no man can look fierce with tears running down his face and so yesterday there were no fierce men on this saddest of occasions in the village of Rasharkin in Northern Ireland.

It seemed a long funeral but, in fact, it began and ended on time. At 9.45am the family started to spill out of the white single-storey home in a cul-de-sac just inside the village proper. It is here that the boys' grandparents live and it was here that their eldest grandson Lee was staying on Sunday night when a firebomb attack killed his three younger brothers in nearby Ballymoney. Now Lee, 13, would be among the youngest to walk out on to the driveway, only to turn back and look inside the open front door.

The coffins emerged, one by one, until they were lined up outside the house: three small white containers with gold handles and a gold cross on top. Each lid also carried a photograph of the boy inside: Richard, 11; Mark, 10; and Jason, who had his ninth birthday last week. The only sound was of crying and shutters clicking from the dozens of photographers gathered in the middle of the cul-de-sac.

Slowly, the Quinn men stepped forward to give their shoulders to a coffin. They began to walk down to the main road and the photographers followed. Progress was slow. "Isn't it just so awfully sad," whispered one villager as they walked by. Most were crying and you did not need to know the boys or their mother Christine to do so. It was Christine who decided to bring up her children as Protestants because it was easier on the Carnary estate, but she was Catholic, if lapsed, and gave them a Catholic funeral.

Elsewhere it would be said that it was only these murders that had stopped the Orangemen at Drumcree on their path of destruction. The province was sickened, they say, and no one had the heart for the ritual hatreds after Sunday night's attack. But in Rasharkin yesterday there was not much talk at all.

The men swapped places under the coffins. Christine's estranged husband, John Dillon, carried each coffin in turn as he walked along the road that finally left the village. Here, the procession stopped, and each coffin was loaded into the hearse. The trip to the Church of Our Lady and St Patrick in Ballymoney had begun.

The mass began at around 11am. The church is large and made of beautiful grey stone, but could not hold the hundreds who came, so some sat outside.

BY ANN TRENEAMAN in Rasharkin

Continued on page 2

Brown's £56bn pledge to improve public services

BY COLIN BROWN Chief Political Correspondent

GORDON BROWN yesterday announced a £56bn three year boost to public services designed to meet Labour's election pledges and pave the way for another term in office.

The Chancellor's long-awaited Comprehensive Spending Review amounts to the first major boost to public spending since Margaret Thatcher came to power in 1979.

Buoyed by the 0.5 per cent fall in the inflation to 3.7 per cent, the Chancellor of the Exchequer delighted cheering Labour MPs by announcing that the lion's share of the extra spending - £40bn - would be devoted to education and health to meet election promises on cutting NHS waiting lists and reducing class sizes.

"There will be more money but only in return for modernisation," said Mr Brown in his 29-minute announcement. The extra money will come from cutting debt, imposing a tight squeeze on public sector pay and asset sales of £11bn. "This is prudence for a purpose," he told MPs.

- £21bn boost for health • £19bn extra for education
- Minimum income for poor pensioners • Substantial investment in public transport • More cash for jobs

The Chancellor's programme of higher spending on the Government's priorities will see health spending rise by 4.7 per cent in real terms and education by 5.1 per cent.

There was growing scepticism, however, about whether Mr Brown can deliver his promises. The programme will depend on sustained growth, which could prove a mirage if the economy goes into recession. "Gordon is walking on water, but there is going to be a big splash, if unemployment goes up," said one ministerial source.

The Chancellor announced a £2.5bn increase in Harriet Harman's welfare budget for pensioners, with a boost in income support for poorer pensioners which will be paid automatically as part of the state pension, and the abolition of charges for eye tests for pensioners. There

was some disappointment that free dental check-ups are not to be restored.

In addition to David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, and Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, the main Cabinet win-

world; Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, with an extra £3bn for law and order; and John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister's whose housing budget will increase by £3.6bn with an extra £2bn for public transport over the next three years.

A small increase of £290m over three years for the arts under Culture Secretary, Chris Smith, which the Chancellor said would be used to increase access to museums, as foreshadowed yesterday in *The Independent*.

The losers include Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture minister, whose budget will be cut. But as the small print was studied, the Chancellor was being accused of using "smoke and mirrors".

The Tories were split over how to deal with the unexpected size of the increases. William Hague's office described it as a "pre-election binge - they are spending more than expected." Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, and Kenneth Clarke, the ex-Chancellor both claimed the higher spending was being paid for by higher taxes. But some Shadow Cab-

inet ministers accused the Chancellor of artificially inflating the increases.

The Liberal Democrats welcomed the increased spending on health and education, but said the total increases over a five-year term were 3.7 per cent compared to 4.1 per cent achieved by the Tories under John Major. The Scottish Nationalist Party also accused Labour of increasing spending less than the Tories.

By highlighting the accumulated total increases over the next three years, the Chancellor was able to demonstrate he is delivering more money than ever before to public services in a historic shift of resources, which sets New Labour's stamp on the delivery of services by the Government.

But the cash increases were less impressive when the current year's allocations were compared with the final year in 2001-2. Health spending in England is set to rise by £9bn and is likely to be £11bn higher when Wales and Scotland are included. Education spending will be £4.5bn higher in cash terms than the current year at the time of the next election.

INSIDE

Spending review: reports and analysis, pages 6 & 7
Parliament, page 8
Business outlook, page 19
Leading Article, Review, page 3



Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, won an increase of £44m for the BBC foreign service, although his budget is being held at a standstill. There was also

ners from the Review were: Clare Short with an increase of £900m in international aid over the next three years to meet election pledges on the third

Double gamble the Chancellor dare not lose

THE CHANCELLOR'S team billed the spending round as "bigger than the Budget". It is. Gordon Brown is making two giant gambles. The first is a financial and economic one: that the new public spending plans can be sustained in the face of a probable slowdown in the economy. The second is a political one: that the health and education industries can modernise themselves in response to the additional resources being offered, and that there will be sufficient improvement in their performance evident by the next election to justify the money they will receive.

The increase in public spending, while modest overall, will require only a modest slowdown this year and a return to reasonable growth through the rest of the life of this parliament. If growth turns out to be slower or worse than expected, if there were to be a post-millennial recession, then tax revenues would be lower than forecast and the pressure on public spending would be higher.

Since it has rejected any significant increase in borrowing, the Government would be forced either to cut back on its promised spending, or put up taxes, or both.



HAMISH MCRAE

So in economic and financial terms Mr Brown is making a bet not just on the continued reasonable performance of the British economy, which ar-

guably is to some extent within his control, but also continued reasonable growth in the world economy, which self-evidently is not.

The political bet is that British taxpayers will not just get additional bangs for their bucks, but they will also recognise this.

The additional money for the twin priorities of the Government, spending on health and education, has been closely linked to reforms which those two industries will be required to carry out in return for the funding.

The choice of priorities will

be widely applauded, for these are areas where there is not only great popular demand for improved services. They both also have a long-term influence on the country's competitive potential.

Human capital has become the most important form of capital of today's corporations, and hence the main engine of economic growth.

It would be astounding if there were not some evident improvement in both health care and education as a result of these measures. The issue is whether any improvements will be sufficiently large to be recognised as such by consumers - and voters. Both health and education have absorbed large quantities of additional resources (though not on this scale) in recent years yet have found themselves perceived as cutting back their services.

Can they lift their game? If they can, they will be cheered to the roof-tops. If not, it will not just be them but Mr Brown who will be in serious trouble. For if he loses either of his gambles, the prospect of a full second term for Labour - something it has never achieved in the party's history - will suddenly recede.

INSIDE
FULL CONTENTS
PAGE 2
TODAY'S TV
REVIEW, PAGE 24

HOME NEWS
An American company may establish the first network of privately run state schools in Britain
PAGE 4

HOME NEWS
A baby died after being shaken "backwards and forwards as hard as possible", a jury heard
PAGE 10

FOREIGN NEWS
Netanyahu was accused of meddling in the trial of an Israeli convicted of selling poison gas to Iran
PAGE 13

BUSINESS
The FTSE-100 soared 140 points to close above 6,100 following a fall in inflation for June
PAGE 17

SPORT
Nick Faldo is fit to play in the Open at Birkdale, which starts tomorrow
PAGE 30

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29

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Health risk: A government-appointed panel has approved silicone-gel enlargements, but some experts still have doubts

Breast implants get the official all-clear. But does it mean they are safe?

THEY HAVE BEEN described as a time-bomb ticking in women's chests, but silicone gel breast implants were cleared of causing disease yesterday by an independent group of experts.

However, the Government-appointed panel did warn that private cosmetic surgery clinics were pressurising women into operation without explaining the risks - a move that one professor likened to the tactics of double-glazing salesmen.

The conclusions of the seven-member Independent Review Group, set up last year, are unlikely to defuse the row about the implants that are used by an estimated 100,000 women. About 8,000 operations are carried out each year, of which two thirds are for cosmetic reasons - the vast majority done by cosmetic surgery clinics which advertise in women's magazines.

Last week the US silicone breast implant manufacturer Dow Corning announced a \$3.2bn compensation package to settle worldwide claims against it. An estimated 177,000 women have joined class actions against the company including 3,500 from Britain. Although the company denies liability, claiming that a settlement is the only way to curb legal costs mounting at \$1m a day, for many women its action has confirmed their worst fears that the implants are in fact dangerous.

In its report, the Independent Review Group seeks to quell these fears by drawing a distinction between local effects, such as hardening of the implant which gives the breast

BY JEREMY LAURENCE
and JCHARLES ARTHUR

a lumpy texture, and what it calls "distant and systemic effects" - evidence of a link with disease. Although the group found no evidence that silicone was a poison or that it caused an abnormal immune response, it said there were risks of local effects associated with any operation to implant a foreign material into the body. Private clinics were failing to explain these risks - that could include infection, hardening and rupture requiring removal of the implant - as they were driven by commercial rather than health considerations. Ads for breast enlargement in women's magazines also failed to alert women to the risks or make clear where information could be obtained. "Women ... are frequently given inadequate information about the operation and any possible problems associated with it. They may be pressurised into going ahead ... before they have fully considered the advantages and disadvantages," it says.

Yet, even as the panel was publicising its findings, a Cambridge-based company, which makes testing kits for hospitals for "auto-immune" diseases like arthritis, said it had found evidence that some people may have an immune reaction to silicone gel - chemically the polymer polydimethyl siloxane - that could explain the problems many women have reported.

Dr Mike Walker of Genesis Diagnostics claimed yesterday that in blind tests, his compa-

ny had identified people whose blood contains antibodies that react with silicone. If confirmed, the work would be remarkable in establishing an antibody reaction to an inorganic material containing no amino acids. Though the body will become inflamed where inorganic material (like glass) is present, antibodies can only target proteins.

Professor Roger Sturrock, chairman of the expert group and professor of rheumatology at the University of Glasgow, said the group had consulted patients, doctors, lawyers, researchers and the manufacturers as well as examining new and existing evidence. Silicone implants have been implicated in connective tissue diseases such as scleroderma, in which the skin becomes hard and leathery, causing stiffening of the joints; and arthritis, but the group found no evidence of any link. Women with the implants were no more likely to be ill than women without them, and there was no evidence that their children were at greater risk.

Meanwhile Professor David Sharpe, president of the British Association of Aesthetic (cosmetic) Plastic Surgeons, accused "cowboy" cosmetic clinics of operating like double glazing salesmen. Most plastic surgeons observed high standards, but that did not stop entrepreneurs setting up clinics and hiring surgeons of lesser quality who might cut corners.

"They are often filled with surgeons who have not made the grade as consultants and they employ counsellors who are nothing more than sales

girls," he said. The pressure applied to women was revealed when 16 volunteers agreed to phone clinics for a survey in the current *British Journal of Plastic Surgery*. Professor Sharpe said: "Many of the women who made the calls for that study were still being pursued a year later. The clinics had got their numbers from directory enquiries and were phoning up to tell them about this week's special offer of an implant for £500. These are practices more in tune with double glazing sales."

Professor Sharpe said that one in seven women having implants lost sensation in their nipples which in some cases was permanent; one in ten experienced "capsular contraction" - hardening of the implant - and there were the scars to think about. Among women with older implants - inserted pre-1988 - about one in four ruptured, but in the newer type which had a thicker shell, this was less of a problem.

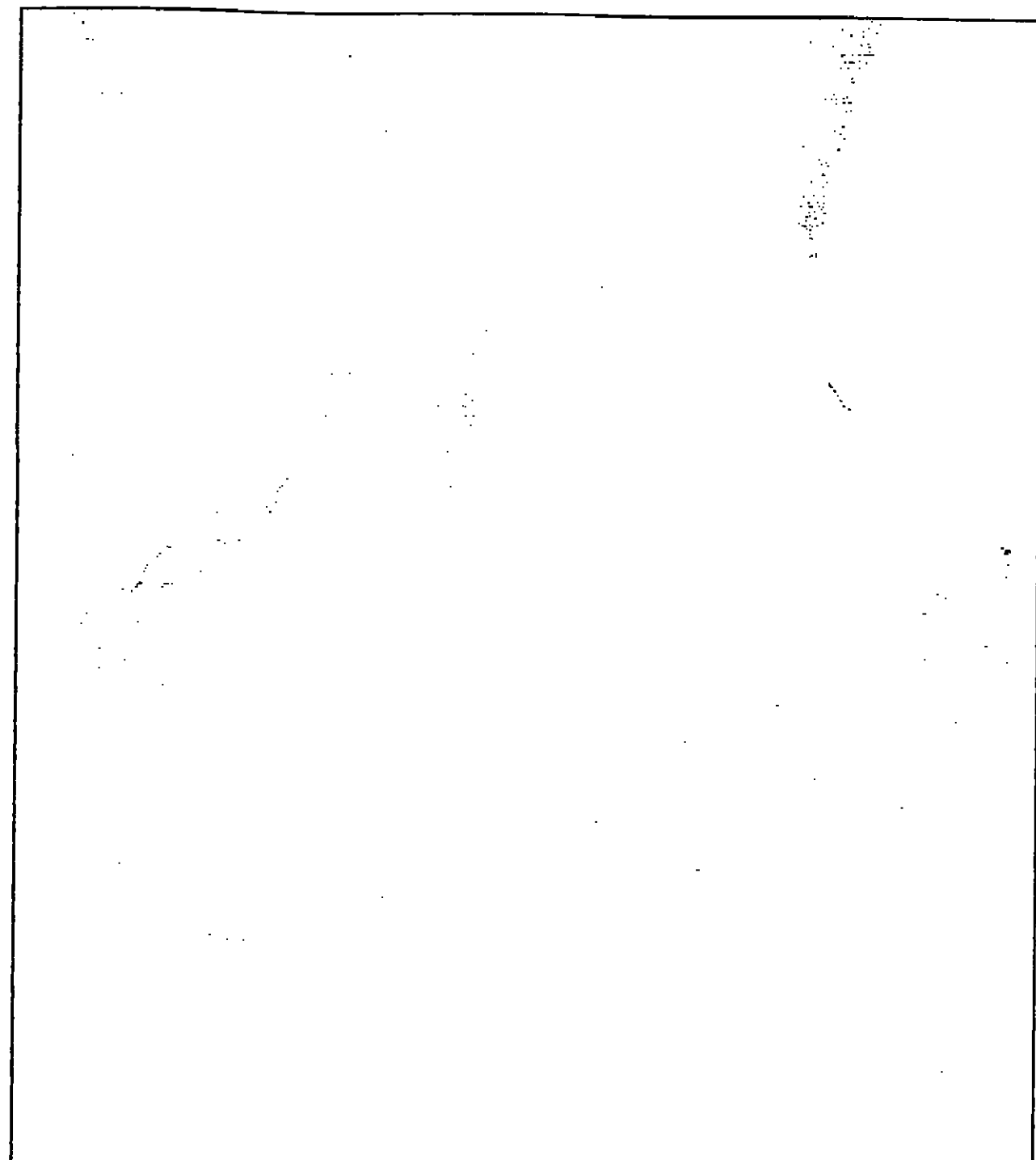
"The vast majority of women with implants think that they are a great thing, but if you sit back objectively and listen to what can go wrong, you have to be pretty determined to have them. They are safe from a health point of view, but they are not a fashion accessory because there are problems with them, and these should be explained."

The Independent Review Group's report says measures should be introduced to ensure proper standards of care in private clinics, a "cooling off" period of several days between consultation with the surgeon and the operation and a body

should be set up to provide information on the risks and benefits that should be listed in all ads for breast enlargement.

Professor Sturrock said: "In the final analysis, the suggested link with these implants and any connective tissue disease does not stand up to scientific scrutiny. Likewise the hypotheses suggesting an abnormal immune response have not been proven." The report says there are no grounds for further epidemiological studies.

But members of the Independent Review Group said later that the health problems suffered by women with implants might be related to the reason for the implant. In 30-40 per cent of cases, implants are used to restore the shape of the breast after surgery for cancer; the psychological effects of which may explain further ill health. In cosmetic cases, women who have concerns about their body image may also be more prone to fatigue, and aches and pains.



Examples of silicone gel breast implants, once described as a time-bomb ticking in women's chests

A cosmetic whim led to disaster

CHRISTINE WILLIAMSON was 29 when she got breast implants in 1979, paying £1,900 at a clinic. "I had been breast-feeding and my breasts had reduced in size," she said. "My friends were having implants, and my husband thought they would look good."

Immediately afterwards, she was very pleased. But while patients now are recommended to have the implants changed every five years or so, she kept hers for 13 years. The only drawback she noticed then was occasional hardening, which would be dealt with every so often by a surgeon who would "squeeze" the implants, forcing a little of the filling material out to soften them again.

But one burst when a surgeon squeezed them again in 1992. Christine, who lives in Hackney, east London, was put on an 18-month waiting list for an NHS operation to repair the damage. She became ill, with aching joints and excessive sensitivity to touch. Her marriage foundered.



She went into hospital in April 1994 for the operation. "I was expecting to be back to normal. But when I woke up I found they had cut off my right breast, and removed the lymph glands up to the armpit, and a lump of silicone under the skin on top of my arm."

She thought there had been an error, and sued. But in court the hospital produced evidence that the mastectomy had been required. Christine did, however, win some compensation, on the basis that the doctors did not have consent for the operation.

Christine says her advice to anyone thinking of implants: "Don't do it. Forty per cent of women will be sensitive to silicone."

'My advice to all women - Don't'

IT IS three years since Elaine Coomber, 52, had her silicone breast implants removed, and she still suffers from chronic fatigue, joint pain and stiffness. She had the implants when she was 29 to enlarge her breasts and lived with them for 20 years. "I was told they would last a lifetime. They clearly don't," she said.

Within a year, they began to harden, the scars remained sore, and for years she experienced flu-like symptoms which she attributed to an overloaded immune system. "I didn't think there was anything I could do. The doctors said I would have to put up with it."

When she was 34 she had a hysterectomy to deal with persistent gynaecological prob-



lems. In the early 1990s, after reading of problems caused by breast implants, she paid £4,000 to have hers removed privately after her NHS doctor had said there was nothing wrong. She founded the pressure group Survivors of Silicone. She dismissed yesterday's report from the Independent Review Group as "totally inadequate".

"We don't need guidelines, we need legislation."

Inquiry after trainee staff told to walk on hot coals

AN INVESTIGATION has been launched after seven trainee sales staff suffered burns while walking on hot coals during a "motivational" training course.

Two of the trainees had to be taken to a specialist burns unit after being invited to take off their shoes and socks and walk over the glowing embers.

Yesterday environmental health officers said they were looking into the incident, involving staff from the insurance group Eagle Star. Meanwhile, Eagle Star said it was considering legal action against Infinite Breakthrough Technologies, the company that organised the firewalk.

"We knew that the firewalk was a planned part of the day but obviously we trusted the training company," said a spokeswoman.

"We are trying to find out exactly what happened and part of the review will decide

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

whether legal action is appropriate.

"Obviously something went very wrong and seven of the staff ended up with burns and some had serious burns. Some of the staff are now back at work, but others are still recuperating at home."

Eagle Star said it was the first time - and probably the last - that the firm had used them. The spokeswoman refused to say how much Eagle Star had paid for the course.

The incident happened last Thursday in the grounds of the Cheltenham and Gloucester Moat House Hotel, where Eagle Star regularly holds courses for its staff. The 10 trainees - in their 20s and 30s - were sales staff attached to Eagle Star Life, the company's life assurance arm.

"Walking on the coals was not compulsory but ... they felt



they wanted to do it," the spokeswoman said. She could not explain why the trainees continued to walk on the coals having seen some of their colleagues get burnt.

The hotel manager John Cullen, said it had not been involved in the training day. "They were in a far corner of the hotel grounds and we knew nothing about it," he said.

"The first we knew was when people came in and said they had suffered burns to their feet. A number of them went to hospital."

Two of the trainees were so badly hurt that they were transferred to the specialist burns unit at the Frenchay Hospital in Bristol where they were kept overnight.

Last night, Peter Richardson, chief environmental services officer for Tewkesbury Borough Council, said a full investigation had been launched. "We are investigating to see whether the Health and Safety at Work legislation has been broken," he said.

Officers are due to meet with senior officials from Eagle Star later today.

No one from Infinite Breakthrough Technologies, based in Bromley, south-east London, was available to comment last night.

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Education: Firm says it is talking with six councils on setting up network of privately run state schools

American company says it can save our sink schools

AN AMERICAN company set up to turn round inner-city education for profit is in talks with six local authorities with a view to establishing the first of a network of privately run state schools.

Eventually the Edison Project hopes to run up to 50 British schools using methods pioneered in cities such as Boston and Detroit, its chairman, Benno Schmidt, said yesterday.

Mr Schmidt, a former president of Yale University, said his company was interested in working with individual schools and local authorities, as well as helping to run education action zones. Talks with "six or seven" authorities were exploratory, but he is hopeful that councils would take up the idea.

"We would start with a handful of schools with the option that if we did a good job we could create more partnerships in the future," he said.

"It would not make sense to do it unless under the hope and expectation that, in time, there might be a fairly large number of UK schools.

"I'm hoping my discussions with local education authorities and schools will perhaps enable us to present a somewhat clearer set of options, operating and budget options, for policymakers to consider."

Edison runs 25 schools in the United States under contract to local authorities and has plans to open 25 more by the end of the year. It was the inspiration for the Government's programme of education action zones, and was involved in bids for zones in Thameside and Surrey.

The first 12 zones will open in September, with powers to change the curriculum, teachers' contracts and the school year, under a £1m-a-year programme partly funded by business.

BY BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

Mr Schmidt, speaking after giving evidence to the Commons education select committee, said massive capital investment was needed in schools, arguing that an average secondary school needed an injection of £1m.

The Edison Project specialises in giving schools a new start, often with a new head, virtually an all-new staff and a curriculum developed by the company's team of education experts.

Its schools operate an extended eight-hour day and have only nine or ten weeks' holiday a year, compared with 13 weeks in British schools - a regime Mr Schmidt said was favoured by parents, pupils and teachers.

The pupils have extended lessons and specially timetabled small classes for key subjects such as maths and English.

Mr Schmidt told MPs: "Your schools are starved of research and development. Your schools do not have the capital that serious, systematic innovation requires."

"I believe that one approach in the UK among many to achieve innovation and high levels of achievement is to introduce the private sector."

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, has insisted that schools will not be run for profit, but Mr Schmidt said his company could operate under conventional consultancy arrangements.

Teachers leaders' have regarded the prospect of schools being run for profit with horror.

Last night, Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said he "will be keeping a close watch on any developments".



Children at Boston Renaissance School, which parents overwhelmingly approve. It has a waiting list of 2,000

Gail Osikin/AP

Every teacher has a laptop and each pupil has a home computer

SEVEN HILLS School in Worcester, Massachusetts, takes on children after other schools give up on them. It is one of 25 schools in deprived parts of the United States managed by the Edison Project.

Children from across Worcester can apply and this year the 19 places available drew more than 500 applicants.

Teachers at Seven Hills work longer hours than their counterparts in neighbouring state schools and have shorter holidays. There are 46 teachers - one for every 15 children.

Edison paid £3m to renovate a derelict school to provide new premises. Every teacher has a laptop and every child is provided with a computer at home.

The school is run by a board of trustees, which owns and

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

oversees the school through a separate charter company. It awarded the management contract to the Edison Project, but the American equivalent of the local authority continues to fund the school.

If Edison can educate children for less than the allowance handed out for each pupil, it makes a profit.

The first Edison schools were established just under three years ago and their success is open to question.

Undoubtedly, the schools are popular. Boston Renaissance School has 1,080 places and a waiting list of 2,000, while the Detroit Academy of Arts and Sciences had to hold a lottery

to choose from 1,700 applicants

for 690 places. Four out of five parents at the Boston school said the school was better than their child's previous school.

Last December, a report from Edison said that students entering its schools at the age of eight or nine improved their test scores by more than 25 per cent over two years and were better at reading than their counterparts in ordinary schools.

Literacy and numeracy are said to be improving rapidly in nearly all Edison schools.

But a report earlier this year from the National Education Association, the largest teachers' union in the United States, said that test results from Edison schools were mixed.

Indeed, the company's claim of dramatic gains over two

years was true of only one test in one school - Dodge-Edison in Wichita. Students at Dodge-Edison did less well on another test than those in seven publicly run nearby schools with similar types of pupils.

At Washington Elementary, an Edison school in Sherman, Texas, student achievement had been falling since the project took over, the association said. "A more objective analysis of the available data shows that student achievement in a couple of Edison schools is quite good, in most it is average and in a couple very disappointing."

Since the first Edison school opened only in 1995 it may be too early to make a final judgement, but the success of other experiments involving companies running schools in the

United States is also in doubt.

Researchers from the University of Maryland found that test scores fell in the first two years in which a company called Education Alternatives ran nine inner-city schools in Baltimore. They then improved, but only to their previous level and the contract was cancelled in 1995 because it was proving too expensive.

Edison, which was set up with \$160m over six years, is not yet making a profit. This autumn, the number of schools will double to 50 and the project's managers expect it to be profitable as an organisation in the coming year when they will have 60 to 80 schools.

They insist that individual schools are making a profit, but the company has nearly 100 head-office staff.

West End shuns cool image

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

WEST END theatre has cocked a snook at the Government's association with the Cool Britannia industries of film and fashion.

The first investigation of London theatre shows it bolsters the economy with thousands of jobs, millions of pounds of tourist and industry spending, and creates big tax yields. The report, commissioned by the Society of London Theatre, was written by Tony Travers, an academic with the London School of Economics, with data compiled by MORI.

A spokeswoman said: "There has been annoyance in theatreland at the Government's obsession with Cool Britannia. This report shows how economically important West End theatre is. It is also imperative that government invests in regional theatre, which provides the seed-corn talent for the West End." The report shows the economic impact of West End theatre in 1997 was £1.075m, and that 41,000 jobs depend on it. Theatre-goers spent £433m on restaurants, hotels, transport and merchandise last year in addition to £250m on tickets, of which 11.5 million were sold. West End theatre yielded £200m in tax revenues.

The report warns the Government: "Cuts in grants ... to both regional and national theatre, opera and dance companies has gone way beyond any possible intentions to cut out waste and drive out inefficiency: the industry is suffering structural damage."

"More writers ... need to be encouraged and enabled to write plays for the theatre, rather than gravitating towards television and film."

The report also contains two messages for West End theatre itself: "In an age of highly packaged sedentary entertainment - television, computer games, the Internet - theatre must market its dynamic and fulfilling product more effectively ... There is a need for co-ordinated national and regional audience-building programmes."

It is also necessary to "clear away the red tape that accompanies investment in commercial theatrical productions and make the tax benefits ... simpler and clearer for the individual, so that more shows will get off the ground and more investors will get involved."

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Seizures fail to staunch flood of drugs

CUSTOMS OFFICERS are failing to stop traffickers swamping Britain with drugs despite record seizures, according to evidence published yesterday by the Government spending watchdog.

During the past nine years the street price of most drugs has fallen or stayed about the same when inflation is taken into account, suggesting supply has not been denied by the actions of the authorities.

The average number of people sentenced for drug smuggling since 1989 has also slumped from 1,500 a year to just over 1,000.

The National Audit Office, the organisation responsible for examining whether public bodies provide value for money, concluded that the price trends suggested that Customs and Excise have not restricted the supply of drugs.

The auditors praised customs for seizing a record amount of drugs in the year up to April 1998 when they nearly doubled their target and confiscated drugs estimated to be worth £3.3bn as well as breaking up 130 smuggling rings. Drug seizures have risen by about 22 per cent every year for the past nine years.

But this success appears to have had no effect upon the street availability of drugs. Only 10 per cent of drugs are believed to be seized by the authorities.

Analysis of customs' data reveals that in the past nine years synthetic drugs such as Ecstasy and amphetamine have dropped by almost 40 per cent in price after inflation. Cocaine has seen a decline of nearly a fifth, while heroin and herbal cannabis have remained the same. Only cannabis resin

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

rose in cost by about a third. By contrast alcohol and tobacco have increased by about nearly two-thirds since 1989/90.







Low prices at a time when more people are taking illegal substances almost certainly shows that there is an expanding supply of drugs. The report added that while customs have been successful in jailing traffickers "other organisations may have stepped in to make up any shortfall".

Chairman of the Commons Public Accounts Committee, David Davis, expressed concern that while seizures were increasing, the number of people successfully prosecuted for drug smuggling had declined by almost one-third since 1980. Part of the reason may be because customs are worried about their investigation techniques being revealed in court under new legal rules.

Mike Goodman, director of Release, the national drug agency, said: "The amount of drugs getting stopped by the authorities will be in the order of 5 to 15 per cent. From the cost of drugs on the streets it would appear that this is having virtually no impact on domestic consumption."

A report published last week estimated that the illegal drugs market in Britain is worth up to £8.6bn a year. The Office of National Statistics' figures suggest that drug dealing is the biggest illegal economic activity in the UK. Problem users spent an estimated £2.2bn on drugs in 1996, regular recreational users £1.6bn, of which £1bn went on cannabis, £208m on amphetamines, £135m on cocaine and £125m on Ecstasy. Occasional

RELENTLESS EXPANSION OF A DEADLY TRADE

HEROIN	ECSTASY	CANNABIS	SPEED	LSD	CRACK/COCAINE	
						
AMOUNT SEIZED by Customs in UK, 1997	1,747 kg worth £145m - 135 per cent increase on 1996. Represents about 8.7 million wraps that give between one and four 'hits'.	394 kg, worth £17m - down from £23m in 1996	77,000 kg - worth £261m. About the same as the year before.	935kg worth £24m - up from 840kg the previous year.	Just 1,860 doses worth only £6,500 - down from 118,000 doses in 1997.	2,074kg worth £2m - almost twice the amount of year before.
WHO ARE THE USERS?	Increasingly young people. Average age of users is 14-25. Evidence of new epidemic in non-metropolitan inner-city areas and on outlying housing estates. Still low level of use - about 2 per cent of population. Mainly used by poor and socially excluded but becoming more mainstream.	Still popular on club and dance scene, mainly late teens and 20s. Difficulty in getting good quality drug has pushed some users into alternatives.	Most popular of all drugs. Used by teenagers who often use it along with other substances. Evidence that very small number are now smoking it with heroin. Many former drug users continue smoking dope as they get older. Most popular drug among middle classes.	Increasingly common among young people, particularly on club scene, used along with other drugs and has replaced some of the ecstasy market. About 14 per cent of young people say they have tried the drug.	Still popular among people who were first introduced to drug in Sixties - otherwise known as old hippies - but also used at parties and raves. Resurgence in popularity among young people.	Resurgence in popularity of powder cocaine among middle classes. Also evidence that crack cocaine is making big comeback in inner cities among poor and addicts.
COST AND AVAILABILITY	Reports in cities such as Bristol say it is easier to get than cannabis. Mini dealer/users making it available to users 24 hours - a phone call away. Popular in £10 bags, enough for a hit.	Available nationally. Concentrated in metropolitan areas, particularly London, Manchester, and Liverpool. About 8 per cent of young people report trying it. £5 to £12 a tablet.	A fifth of population has tried it and accounts for 80 per cent of drug use. Not considered by many as a dangerous drug and therefore happy to use relatively openly. Widely available. £15 for resin, enough for 10-20 joints.	East European pharmaceutical factories find speed more profitable than headache tablets. Also available from the Netherlands, Belgium and UK 'speed factories'. Costs £5 to £10 a gram.	Widely available. Used by about 14 per cent of young people and popular because of low cost - £1.50 to £3 for a dose. The strength has greatly dropped over the years along with expense.	Increasingly available although only about 2 per cent of population have reported using it. Powder cocaine costs £50 to £70 for gram - sufficient for up to 20 lines. Crack 'rocks' are about £10 to £20 each.
HOW FASHIONABLE?	Becoming more acceptable among teenage drug users, who regard smoking it as less damaging than injecting.	Lost some appeal with decline of outdoor raves. Also high-profile deaths, such as Leah Betts, along with poor quality, adulterated supplies.	Accepted as mainstay of most drug users - also taken in combination with other drugs. Recent rise in popularity of stronger variety known as 'skunk'.	Poor man's cocaine, often used by the larger crowd. Associated with club and dance scene because it provides energy and confidence.	Shed some of its 'old hippie' image and gaining status among younger users because of cost.	Very fashionable - both for celebrities, media and City folk. Crack considered a 'loser's drug'.
ARE LAW ENFORCERS WINNING THE WAR?	No. Evidence emerging that more than ever is coming into Britain. About 80 per cent is sent from Turkey, and distributed by London-based gangs. Largely produced in Afghanistan and Pakistan.	Containment at best. Drop in popularity has helped, plus police and Customs operations aimed at some of big traffickers. Still large amount being brought in from Europe, particularly the Netherlands.	No evidence to suggest any drop in availability, although one of the few drugs where price has risen in past decade, implying harder to obtain. Much of drug comes from Morocco, West Indies, and West Africa.	The drop in the cost and rising popularity of speed suggest that the authorities are failing to halt its importation.	Unsure whether less coming into the country, if smugglers are evading Customs or more being made in UK.	No. Drug is arguably more popular than ever before and price has dropped by about a fifth in past decade. Massive profits make it very attractive to dealers.

IN BRIEF

Four lose Hoover flight claim

FOUR CUSTOMERS who failed to travel to America on a free flight as a result of the Hoover promotion yesterday lost compensation claims against the electrical giant. Judge Bennett ruled at St Helens County Court, Merseyside, that the firm had not committed a breach of contract. The four were claiming compensation to the amount of the cost of a ticket to the USA. But the judge ruled that because they had been offered flights on particular days and from particular airports, which they had rejected, their claims should be dismissed.

Court takes the prizes

GLASSWARE prizes were surrendered for legal safekeeping yesterday by Trevor Montague, 44, a chartered accountant, of Crawley, West Sussex, who is being sued by Channel 4's Fifteen-to-One show. Producers say he won them unfairly after failing to disclose he had appeared on the show before. Review, Page 9

Lord Sainsbury

The picture that accompanied our article "Lord Sainsbury giving a further £1m to party" in one edition on Monday was of Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover. The article in fact concerned Lord David Sainsbury of Turville.

Triads seek police help in kidnap clashes

THE INFLUX into Britain of nearly 5,000 illegal immigrants from a small parts of eastern China has led to violent clashes with Triad gangs in London's Chinatown.

Police have recorded a succession of "choppings" and 15 kidnap incidents since the beginning of last year.

Jack Straw, the home secretary, revealed this week that a delegation of community leaders from Chinatown had been to see him. "They were calling for the toughening up of the system because it was being abused by Chinese illegal immigrants," he said.

One senior London police officer said: "For the first time we are actually getting co-operation from the Triads."

The wave of new Chinese immigrants emanates from the

rean passports which are surrendered to the snakeheads during the flight so that they can be used again.

On arrival in Britain the illegals seek asylum but refuse to acknowledge their nationality and invariably provide a false name.

The Met report adds: "Approximately 95 per cent of present asylum requests from mainland Chinese citizens are found to be bogus claims (but) very few citizens are being returned to China as the embassy will not 'document' them."

Most of the Fujianese take work in restaurants and takeaways, where their typical wage of around £150-a-week is half that paid to the mainly Cantonese established Chinese.

But many of the snakeheads are not prepared to wait for debts to be paid off. "It is common place to hear of such persons being kidnapped and beaten and held to ransom while relatives in China pay off the outstanding debt," the police report states. This criminal activity has led the Fujianese

gangs into violent rivalry with the 14K and Wo-Shing-Wo Triads, which have tried to muscle in on the smuggling rackets.

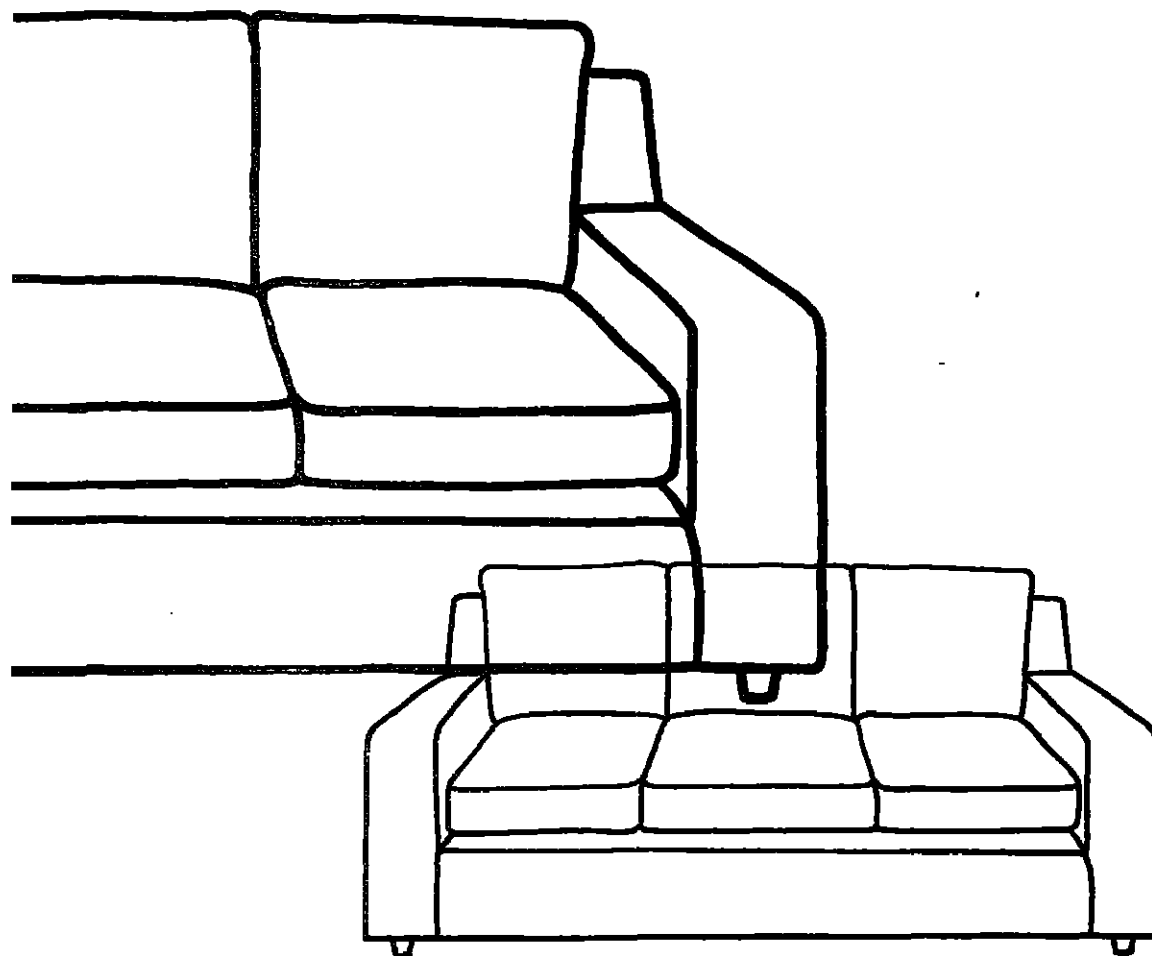
One London lawyer, Wah-Piow Tan, has 1,000 Fujianese asylum seekers as clients. Last night he called for them to be given a three-year amnesty to pay off their debts before they were deported to Fujia.

sent asylum requests from mainland Chinese citizens are found to be bogus claims (but) very few citizens are being returned to China as the embassy will not 'document' them."

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FAMINE IN SUDAN

The situation in Sudan is worsening. Hundreds of thousands of innocent people, driven from their homes by the civil war, now face starvation.

The International Red Cross is already providing emergency aid. But it's now clear that September's harvest will be badly disrupted by the civil war and late rains. The Sudanese urgently need tools and seeds to salvage their crops and feed their children. Only your donation can provide these vital supplies.

Just £25.00 can provide enough medical aid, seeds and tools to make a real difference. Please give as much as you can. Your donation will save lives.

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WE LEAVE EVERYONE STANDING BUT YOU

Promise on class sizes brings £19bn

AN EXTRA £19bn – the biggest ever single investment in education – aims to fulfil the Government's pledge to bring down class sizes and to boost student numbers by 500,000.

There will be £2.9bn extra in the first year, £6.6bn in the second and £9.7bn in the third, so that the Prime Minister's promise to spend more of the nation's wealth on education will be honoured.

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, said that it was a historic day for education: he had enough money to transform educational standards.

But Don Foster, the Liberal Democrats' education spokesman, said that while Mr Blunkett had done well, the Government had to make up for two years in which teachers had been sacked and class sizes had risen.

The Prime Minister, who promised before the election that his priority would be education, education, education, had also pledged to reduce class sizes for five-, six- and seven-year-olds to a maximum of 30 by 2002. However, that will now be possible by 2001, ministers say.

There will be more money to raise standards of literacy and numeracy and for a new "sure start" programme for under-three-year-olds.

Capital spending on schools will double during the course of this Parliament – more than a million children are still taught

EDUCATION
BY JUDITH JUDD AND BEN RUSSELL

in classrooms that were built before the First World War.

Additional spending over the next three years will take the proportion of national wealth spent on education up to 5 per cent in 2001-2, compared with 4.9 per cent in 1996-7.

Mr Blunkett said: "This is an historic day for education and for the country. These additional resources will transform standards in our education service and give everyone the opportunity to realise their full potential."

But David Willetts, the Conservative education spokesman, said: "For all their [Labour's] bluster, all they are going to do is to get back to where they were when we left office."

On teachers' pay, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, insisted that pay review bodies must take account of affordability and the inflation target of 2.5 per cent.

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Association of Teachers, hailed the announcement as "an end to the famine of funding" in schools, while Nigel de Gruchy, leader of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, said that the union was prepared to accept the principle of higher pay in return for better teaching.

But Peter Smith, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, warned: "There must be no more cooking the books over teachers' pay, no more fudging, ducking or spinning over the issue. The Government knows there is a recruitment crisis. What is the point of new classrooms with no teachers?"

David Hart, leader of the National Association of Head Teachers, added: "Attempts to place handclamps on the teachers' pay review body will not solve the recruitment crisis, which is of monumental proportions."

The Government plans to increase student numbers by 500,000 on top of the existing five million in full and part-time study, with most of the expansion in further education colleges.

Universities were waiting to discover whether their bid for up to £1bn a year in extra funding had been successful.

However, vice-chancellors welcomed the pledge of £1.1bn extra spending – on top of the £19bn – on scientific research over three years.

Monica Hicks, spokeswoman for the Association of University Teachers, said: "The resources for education have to be welcomed, but the proof of the pudding is in the eating and we will have to see what happens when David Blunkett gives the full details. Investment in higher education will bring dividends in economic success. That's what we will look for."



A seven-year-old pupil at the Richard Austin Butler School in Saffron Walden, Essex

Brian Harris

Over-16s benefit linked to study

SCHOOL ALLOWANCE
BY GLENDA COOPER

YOUNG PEOPLE will receive an allowance to stay at school beyond 16, in a scheme that could sound the death knell for child benefit for 16 and 17-year-olds. To raise Britain's "appalling" staying-on rates, a new educational maintenance allowance linked to attendance and based on parental income will be piloted for 16 to 18-year-olds.

"If, as we expect, the new educational maintenance allowance succeeds in encouraging young people to stay on in education, we plan to introduce it nationally, using the money... spent on child benefit post-16," the Chancellor said yesterday. Plans to abolish any part of the universal child benefit have met with strong opposition in the past. In the March budget Gordon Brown risked the ire of the middle classes by warning higher rate taxpayers they faced a future tax on the benefit.

Yesterday one Labour MP, interpreting the education maintenance proposal as a plan to pay directly to students money which now goes the mothers of over-16s in full-time education, said it was a "worrying" idea. "It could see money that is now spent on shoes and food going instead on partying and beer," the MP warned. A DSS spokeswoman said last night it was not yet clear whom the allowance would be paid to.

A New Deal to help the young jobless become self-employed will also be launched on Friday, and the Government is introducing Sure Start for the under threes to link childcare, playgroups and post-natal and other health services.

Tough new rules on public pay

MINISTERS WILL try to secure long-term wage deals with leaders of 1.3million public sector workers after the Chancellor of the Exchequer yesterday issued tough new guidelines for their pay review bodies.

As part of the Government's three-year spending plans, the pay review committees will be tied to new disciplines which union leaders argued would critically undermine their independence.

In addition to their responsibility to "recruit, reward and motivate" staff, they will now take into account "affordability" – in other words the spending limits of individual departments.

The bodies, which cover government employees from senior military personnel and top civil servants to nurses and teachers, will have to bear in mind the official inflation target of 2.5 per cent and the government's insistence on "output and efficiency".

From next year the review committees will report to the relevant government departments and the Prime Minister in an attempt to ensure that pay settlements "cannot" be determined without regard to the demands of the service.

While every year the Chancellor has submitted his views to the bodies, from next April the Government's policy of financial stringency will be written in to its terms of reference.

Senior union sources said yesterday they will now have to decide whether to pull out of the pay review system, but it is unclear whether such a decision would improve their members' chances of higher settlements. Left-wingers believe that only a sustained period of industrial action would change the Government's mind.

It is understood that Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, will attempt to reach a three-year pay settlement to match the period of the expenditure plans and that David Blunkett, Education Secretary, will look for a deal to cover the second and third years of the spending review.

The decision to devolve responsibility for setting pay to departments means that secretaries of state will face the

UNIONS
BY BARRIE CLEMENT

ire of employees leaders rather than the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

In the past the Government has ameliorated the impact of increases recommended by the pay bodies by phasing them in, but the Chancellor hopes to avoid such a device by placing further restrictions on the committees' room for manoeuvre.

Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of public service union Unison, welcomed the "much needed boost" for hospitals and schools. "But we cannot applaud the continuing grudge against public service workers, nor the squeeze on their living standards."

He said workers in health and education would continue to feel "angry and demoralised" that years of austerity were to be extended. He pointed out that pay in the public sector increased by 2.6 per cent this year, compared to 5.6 per cent in the private sector.

In a veiled threat of industrial action, he said: "Unless something is done to close this growing gap, there could be more difficulties ahead than just recruitment and retention."

Christine Hancock, leader of the Royal College of Nursing, said she was "anxious" about the new rules governing review bodies. However she said the National Health Service would be forced to set reasonable pay rates in order to address chronic shortages.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said schools faced a recruitment crisis of "monumental proportions". He said the Government's education targets would not be met if heads could not recruit and retain teachers.

The Chancellor's intention of continuing to keep a tight grip on public sector pay was both "unjust and unfair", according to John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB general union.

He said that low paid workers were effectively being asked to pay for the Labour party's election pledges.

PENSIONERS WERE given a £1.5bn boost yesterday from the Chancellor which will guarantee them a minimum income, and restore the right to free eye tests. Help with public transport and fuel bills will also form part of the package which Gordon Brown said would "fulfil our duty to the oldest members of society".

On Friday, the Secretary of State for Social Security, Harriet Harman, will announce proposals which will give every pensioner and pensioner couple a guaranteed income from next April. "We will also set a mini-

PENSIONS
BY GLENDA COOPER

mum tax guarantee: that no pensioner will pay income tax unless their income rises above a specified level," Mr Brown said.

Pilot studies are already under way to find how best to ensure the estimated one million pensioners not claiming the income support to which they are entitled get the money. The expectation is that there will be an extension of "data matching" between agencies, to identify the poorest pensioners and ensure they are getting the money they are due.

Further help with fuel bills will also be announced by Ms Harman, following promises to pensioners in the Budget.

Charges for eye tests will be abolished for the elderly. "It has always been wrong that charges are levied on pensioners for the eye-sight tests that they regularly need to preserve sight and protect against disease," said Mr Brown. "So for pensioners, from next April, eye-test charges will be abolished." However, the right to free dental checks has not been restored.

"Pensioners need £150 a week to live on. That is the minimum price tag on dignity and independence. We are eager to hear how the Chancellor is going to bring pensioners closer to this adequate income figure," said Sally Greengross, director-general of the charity Age Concern.

Age Concern welcomes free eye tests for older people but free eye tests must be followed up by free treatment if the Chancellor really intends to "preserve sight and protect against disease", she said.

Mervyn Kohler, head of public affairs at the charity Help the Aged, said pensioners were beginning to get "serious attention" at last. "However, this spending review should not be judged by the goodies in the headlines," he said. "Its value will be in it enables spending departments to put fresh emphasis on older people's needs. Help the Aged is looking for joined-up thinking by government and the devil will be in the detail."

Mr Brown said that the growth in social security spending would be "significantly lower" than the previous Parliament, because of the num-

Scottish Office grant up to £15bn

SCOTLAND
BY STEPHEN GOODWIN

THE £13.8bn a year rising to £15bn allocated to the Scottish Office represents the financial battleground on which next year's elections to the home-rule Parliament will be fought.

Donald Dewar yesterday challenged the SNP and other parties to say how they would distribute Scotland's pot of money. "If they say they want to rearrange it, do they want the 5,000 extra classroom assistants? Do they want the smaller class sizes?" the Secretary of State for Scotland demanded.

In a departure from tradition reflecting the new emphasis that Scottish business should be done north of the border, Mr Dewar announced his depart-

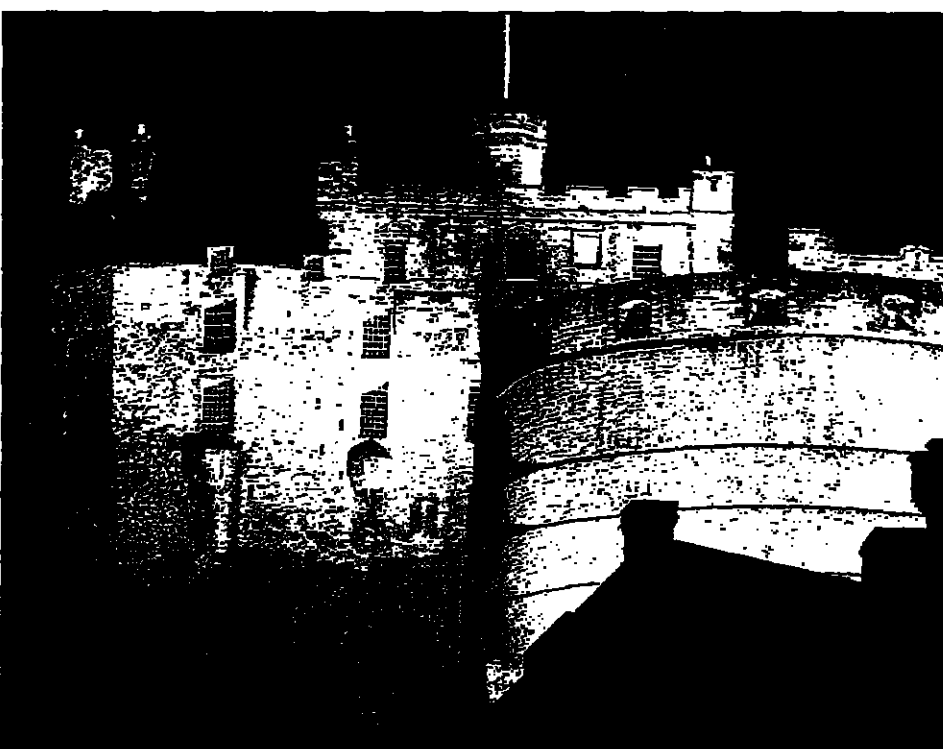
ment's priorities not "on the margins" of Westminster, as he put it, but in Edinburgh.

Scotland will receive £4bn more over the next three years – around £800 extra for every man, woman and child. Education and health are the big gainers, sharing an extra £3bn. The losers are tuition fee paying students, industry support and local authorities, who face having to impose council tax bills of up to 5 per cent.

However the Scottish Parliament, when it begins at the end of 1999, will be free to

change the Government's spending priorities. Mr Dewar, who is expected to become Scotland's "prime minister" if Labour are the largest party, said he believed the disposition of resources was just and reflected the needs of Scotland.

John Swinney, the SNP Treasury spokesman, said the share-out within Scotland contained "a large element of robbing Peter to pay Paul". He pointed out that despite the vaunted increases, the total budget available to the new Parliament in 2000/01 would be more than £200m down on the money available to Scotland at the peak of Tory spending four years ago.



Next year will see battles over finance raging in Edinburgh

Daily Record

Extra £6bn for homes

HOUSING
BY LOUISE JURY

AN EXTRA £6bn is to be released to help tackle homelessness and renovate more than 1.5 million homes, the Chancellor announced yesterday.

Announcing a number of measures to improve housing stock and availability, Gordon Brown said local authorities would be allowed to use capital receipts from the sale of council houses to tackle the serious backlog of repairs.

Improvements will be possible on an estimated 1.5 million homes over the next three years using £3.6bn from local-authority capital receipts. Around 250,000 with a backlog of problems will benefit from more major repairs.

mission to examine housing management in every local authority.

Council-house tenants are to be given greater say in how their homes are managed and maintained, although rents will increase by 1 per cent in real terms next year and 2 per cent in each of the following two years to help fund maintenance. There will be also a new programme for home energy efficiency to help the government to meet environmental obligations. Chris Holmes, of the Shelter housing charity, said an estimated £20bn was needed to bring existing housing stocks up to satisfactory standards. But the extra money was welcome.

A Housing Inspectorate "with real power to tackle poor management" is to be established under the Audit Com-

Aid for drugs war

HOME OFFICE
BY IAN BURRELL AND JASON BENNETTO

promised that some of the resources would go to drug rehabilitation services, which have warned they are facing a cash crisis.

The added funding will also be used to pay for the new drug treatment testing orders which the Home Office is introducing to give courts an alternative to custodial sentences.

The total Home Office spend has been increased by £3bn, spread over three years.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, promised quicker and more efficient youth justice

and more resources dedicated to helping victims of crime and improving race relations.

But the police have been given a below-inflation increase, with the threat of having their budgets cut in the future if they fail to make efficiency savings.

The tough package gives the 43 forces in England and Wales a 2.7 per cent rise next year followed by increases of 2.8 per cent and 4 per cent in the following years. This will see the total spending rise from about £7.1bn next year to £7.6bn in the year to April 2002. However, some of the money will be withheld after 2000 if forces fail to make 2 per cent efficiency savings every year.

Health chiefs savour £21bn

HE SAVED the best till last. The £21bn extra for the National Health Service was the final plum the Chancellor pulled out of his pie. And what a plum it is.

The cash boost, the largest in history according to Gordon Brown, will mean a mouth watering 5.7 per cent increase in real terms for the health service next year, with slightly lower rises in the next two years, averaging 4.7 per cent a year for the rest of the Parliament.

The NHS Confederation, representing health authorities and trusts, declared the sum "beyond our wildest dreams". Stephen Thornton, the chief executive, said: "It is spectacular. We were all expecting £10-12bn. It does greatly show that this Government is committed to the NHS. The numbers are so big I am not even saying what I normally say, which is that we have to watch the small print."

The Royal College of Nursing said the sum offered "one of the most exciting opportunities to revolutionise quality in the history of the NHS". The British Medical Association said it was a "significant investment". The only sour note came from the health unions who noted the "continuing grudge against public service workers" and the "squeeze on their living standards".

In cash terms, spending will rise in England by £3bn next year from its current level of £36.5bn to £39.5bn and by a further £3bn to £42.5bn in 2000-01. The rise in the final year of the Parliament will be slightly lower at £2.5bn to just over £45bn, a 3.9 per cent real

HEALTH
BY JEREMY LAURANCE

increase. All the figures take account of inflation estimated at 2.5 per cent.

The total for England over the three-year period amounts to just over £17.5bn. An estimated £3bn will be added to NHS budgets in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. These sums mean that over the five-year term of the present Parliament the average annual increase for the NHS will be 3.7 per cent in real terms, scotching opposition charges that Labour has been less generous than the last government. Under the Tories, the annual real increase averaged 2.5 per cent during the last parliament.

A jubilant Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, declared: "The Prime Minister promised that the NHS would get the money it needs. Today the Government has delivered on that promise."

In his speech, the Chancellor said half the beds in NHS hospitals were in accommodation built before the First World War and three-quarters of ward blocks were hand-me-downs. He announced a 50 per cent increase in investment in equipment and buildings, and a £5bn fund for NHS modernisation - totalling £8bn over the period.

This includes a 66 per cent boost in the Treasury's contribution, from £1.2bn to almost £2bn over the three years for building new hospitals, but only a small increase in private investment via the unpopular private finance initiative.

Mr Dobson said that the NHS modernisation fund would



A surgeon at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge. The NHS is getting its biggest cash boost ever *Brian Harris*

be ring-fenced "so that it delivers exactly what we want". An extra £3bn would be invested in social services over the next three years, giving an average annual real increase of 3.1 per cent.

He added: "In both health and social services we are delivering investment for reform. I shall be setting challenging targets to ensure we get the most out of the money and that patients everywhere

get the high-quality care they deserve."

However, Rabbi Julia Neuberger, chief executive of the King's Fund, the health policy think-tank, warned that the efficiency targets must be the

right ones. Referring to the Government's pledge to reduce waiting lists, she said: "Money in return for modernisation must not allow the health service to fall victim to political gain."

City wary of another rise in rates

THE CHANCELLOR is to increase spending by more than £55bn over the next three years. £40bn of this will go to health and education, almost double the amount expected, with the rest being shared between a series of government departments, including the Home Office, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The news was warmly received by many MPs and industry figures. The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) said it welcomed the increase in spending on "key priority areas, including education, transport and science." Economists in the City, though, were more cautious, saying the generous increases could push the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) into raising rates again. There has also been some dispute about the way the Government has presented the figures, with some MPs and economists saying actual levels of public spending will be higher than the Government has claimed.

Despite the larger-than-expected bonanza for education and health, the Chancellor insisted total spending will stay within the expenditure caps set out by the Treasury last month. He told the Commons yesterday: "All the allocations are made within and subject to the overall financial discipline as I set out in the Economic and Fiscal Strategy Report I published last month."

The Economic and Fiscal Strategy Report (EFSR) capped the real annual increase in government spending - that is, the annual increase after taking out the effects of inflation - at 2.75 per cent a year over the next three years.

To balance the books, Mr Brown has cut spending on defence, agriculture, and the Cabinet Office, with these departments seeing their budgets cut in real terms - that is, excluding the effects of inflation. The Department of Trade and Industry, Foreign Office and the Lord Chancellor's Department have also lost out. The will have to live with real spending increases below the trend growth rate of the economy.

Mr Brown has also managed to conjure up more money for health and education by cutting back on central government expenditure. The amount that the Government has to lay out on servicing its debt will fall by almost £1bn over the next three years as borrowing levels fall. Indeed, the Treasury calculates that - thanks to the steps the Government has already taken to cut borrowing - debt interest will be £5bn lower than it would have been under the Conservative government. These savings in debt interest are being

ECONOMY
BY LEA PATERSON

ploughed back into the economy.

Payments to the EU are another area of saving. The Treasury calculates that these will fall by £0.6bn next year, largely because this year's payment was higher than normal, although there will be some increase in payments to the EU towards the end of the three-year period.

In total, the Government is to spend more than £1 trillion over the next three years. £351.6bn will be spent in the fiscal year 1999-2000, £359.1bn in 2000-01 and £378.7bn in 2001-2002. About 97 per cent of spending will be current expenditure - that is expenditure needed to finance current demands such as social-security benefits. The remainder - some £32.1bn - is public sector "net investment", which is to go towards improving the economic infrastructure.

According to Treasury estimates, this public-sector net investment will more than double over the next three years.

The Government has pledged that it will not borrow to finance current expenditure - the so-called "golden rule" of fiscal stability. Current expenditure over the next three years will be financed by taxation - indeed, the Government predicts that tax receipts will exceed current expenditure over the next three years, leaving a current-account surplus which will go towards paying for investment in the economy - so-called "capital expenditure".

The amount of investment the Government intends to make in the economy will also be boosted by money it makes from selling assets such as surplus land and local buildings. In total, the Government hopes proceeds from asset sales will allow it to invest an additional £4bn a year in UK plc.

The Government predicts it will have to borrow £2bn next year to finance its spending, but that its borrowing requirements will be virtually zero in 2000 and 2001.

The City was cautious about Mr Brown's spending spree. Many economists say the plans amount to a "fiscal loosening" - that is, more generous than was initially expected. There have also been concerns that the Government has understated the true increases in public expenditure by treating part of the Working Families Tax Credit - the replacement for Family Credit - as a tax credit rather than spending. Others have raised concerns about the prudence of relying on falls in so-called "non-controllable" items such as EU payments to boost spending elsewhere.

Boost for buses, railways, roads

GORDON BROWN, the Chancellor, gave voters the first taste of the Government's radical transport strategy, announcing a £2bn cash boost for the nation's buses, railways and roads.

The figures come a week before John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, unveils his integrated transport white paper, which will detail how the money will be spent.

Over the next three years the Government will release £1.1bn

TRANSPORT
BY RANDEEP RAMESH

for local-transport initiatives designed to "reduce congestion, improve safety and the environment and increase accessibility ... in all parts of the country." Experts point out that a few million pounds could resurrect disused railway lines such as the Ivanhoe branch in Leicestershire or be used for more innovative schemes such as the Midlands Metro - a Birmingham-based tram system.

The motoring lobby was also pleased by an extra £700m for road maintenance. This is likely to include some motorway widening - with the M23, London's orbital highway almost certain to be extended from four to five lanes around the Heathrow area.

Environmentalists were quick to question the wisdom of spending more on roads. "Our concern is that John Prescott will continue to use existing

money to widen new motorways when he should be spending it on packages of measures to upgrade the railways," said Roger Higman, spokesman for Friends of the Earth.

However, it is unclear how the money will be spent. Ministers want the funds to be used to entice private companies to invest in the transport network. The financial model favoured by Mr Prescott is the "public-private partnership" he devised for London's ailing

Tube system. Steven Norris, a former Tory transport minister, who now heads the lobby's Road Haulage Association, questioned how much of the money would be "guaranteed".

"We will have to wait till we see the detailed figures before we start breaking out the champagne. Britain's transport problems will only be solved by a genuine increase in spending, not by clever accounting."

Mr Brown was scathing over

the previous government's record of transport spending. It had left a legacy of "years of neglect and under-investment, an over-crowded, under-financed, under-planned and under-maintained transport system. We had a 35-per-cent decline in transport investment in the last parliament. There will be a 25-per-cent increase in the next three years for investment in public transport and meeting our environmental objectives".

Arts fund has strings attached

THE ARTS - and museums in particular - will benefit from the Culture Department's 5.7 per cent rise in spending over the next three years.

The £290m boost will, as revealed in *The Independent*, go partly towards increasing access to museums and galleries. This is understood to mean extending free admission to national museums, though Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, will spell out the details on Friday week.

But the new money for both museums and the performing arts will come with strings, Mr Smith said yesterday. "The new investment places a clear responsibility on funding bodies for agreed improvements in efficiency, access and private sector sponsorship."

"It is a new contract with the arts. There will be extra money to give more people easier access to the opportunities provided by our museums and galleries and to a new artistic life."

So while Mr Smith is promising new investment for museums and galleries and helping to put performing arts companies on a sound financial basis

ARTS
BY DAVID LISTER

so that they can attract new audiences, there will clearly be a *quid pro quo* with arts organisations proving that they are efficient and are attracting business sponsorship.

Nevertheless early reactions from the arts world were positive, with praise for Mr Smith for having persuaded the Treasury to give new money after a year of cutbacks.

The stress on efficiency will also be seen as a warning for the Royal Opera House which will not be receiving any increase in funding until it shows it has put its house in order.

The news of more money for museums and galleries was welcomed by the National Art Collections Fund, one of the bodies that, along with *The Independent*, has campaigned for free admission.

David Barrie, director of the fund, said: "This sounds like a breakthrough. Concerted campaigning has paid dividends."

Mr Smith said his targets, to be delivered by the end of the Parliament, included "harmonising the educational potential of institutions funded by his department



Museums will be benefit from a £290m grant to improve access with lower admission charges *Tom Pilston*

World view reverses 18 years of budget cuts

INTERNATIONAL AID was a clear winner yesterday. Clare Short, the Secretary of State for International Development, was able to point to a substantial annual increase over the next three years, reversing "18 years of decline".

Ms Short has repeatedly emphasised that cash is not the only answer. None the less, she argued yesterday that the new money - an average 8.8 per cent annual increase in real terms - would "help millions of the poorest in the world work their way out of poverty".

The increase in spending, from £2.3bn this year to £3.2bn in 2001, means that development aid will rise from 0.26 to 0.3 per cent of gross national product by 2001, although it will still be below the 0.7 per cent

FOREIGN OFFICE
BY STEVE CRAWSHAW

recommended by the United Nations.

At the Foreign Office, Robin Cook - who has indulged in some scarcely concealed turf battles with Ms Short in the past year - declared himself "very pleased" with the outcome of the spending review for Britain's diplomacy, which will see a real-term increase of 2 per cent over the next three years. Some posts will also be closed. Mr Cook said that the Foreign Office "delivers good value at modest cost. It will seize this opportunity to modernise further so it is better placed to take advantage of opportunities for Britain".

The budget for the Foreign Office-funded BBC World Ser-

vice is to be increased by £44m over the next three years. The World Service has often seemed at risk in recent years, and was an easy target for cuts. But the increase in its budget can be seen as fitting in with Mr Cook's proclaimed ethical foreign policy. Broadcasting can play a key role in weakening authoritarian regimes; the BBC's reputation is high in countries which have moved from totalitarianism to democracy in recent years.

Elsewhere at the Foreign Office, new investment will be found partly by an "asset-recycling agreement" - whereby £90m saved by selling property abroad goes back into the department's private pot, rather than into a central Treasury-administered pool. Areas of expansion will include the European Union and applicant countries to Nato, the Caspian region, China and Brazil.

In Tashkent, in the central Asian republic of Uzbekistan, for example, France has 17 diplomats. Germany has 28 - and Britain has two. The British hunger for commercial contracts means an almost certain increase. Talk of co-operation between EU countries in the region, in order to reduce the number of diplomats and missions, has been shelved.

As at the Department for International Development, the increase in Foreign Office spending represents a clear reversal of the previous trend. In the past five years alone, there have been cuts of 14 per cent at the Foreign Office.

£1bn for science in public, private scheme

SCIENCE AND engineering will receive £1.1bn in funding under the Comprehensive Spending Review to 2002, though only £700m of that is coming from public spending. The other £400m is being donated by the Wellcome Trust, the UK's biggest funder of scientific research.

Of the money allocated, £600m - funded equally by the Government and the Wellcome Trust - will go to build and refurbish university laboratories, an area which was picked out by the pressure group Save British Science (SBS) as essential two years ago. Then, SRS said that £500m was needed to bring laboratories up to the minimum standard required to keep pace with academia in other countries. While the government has not found the whole sum, its ability to persuade the Wellcome Trust to pitch in may mean that Britain's public research scientists once again have the facilities they so badly need. The Research Councils will receive £400m to meet current and capital costs for new project funding in "priority" areas, particularly the life sciences, where business is booming as biotechnology becomes an everyday topic.

SCIENCE
BY CHARLES ARTHUR

Finally, the Wellcome Trust is putting £100m towards a syn-

chrotron X-ray machine, to try to keep the UK in the race to decode and understand the function of all the genes in our DNA - the "Human Genome Project" (HGP). The Wellcome Trust has already made sizeable pledges to the British HGP campus near Cambridge.

This major injection of funds reverses [past] decline

that our predecessors allowed, ensuring that we have a modern and effective science base for the new millennium," said Margaret Beckett, president of the Board of Trade. "In the life sciences, the UK is a world leader."

The question will be whether this funding will be enough to keep it there.

Chancellor in driving seat but end of the road for Prudence

THE CHANCELLOR of the Exchequer arrived at the House of Commons, yesterday, with his much trailed statement on public expenditure. A hushed and expectant Labour party and nervous Conservatives fastened their seat-belts for the drive of their life.

Dark and hunched, Mr Brown slipped effortlessly and automatically into the "drive" position. Foot firmly on the accelerator of public expenditure he wasted no time in pulling straight out into the fast lane, without even bothering to check the rear view mirror.

Within seconds his deep baritone voice had got him from 0-70mph and we were cruising to Christmas six

months early. Words were punched out with so much emphasis and speed that it was hard to keep up. Prudence, who normally rides in the passenger seat, giving him directions, had been banished to the rear but was not allowed to do any back-seat driving.

He is tiring of her and yesterday she was raped and then replaced by a more alluring mistress called "public expenditure" who rode adoringly by his side; he stroked her knee throughout the journey.

By the time the Chancellor had got to the first big spend - education - he was hitting the speed limit. Prudence was getting extremely nervous and wanted to be let out.

"For the next three years I can announce additional education spending of £19 billion," Labour backbenchers roared as they suddenly realised that it was okay and "cool" to be old Labour again.

After the years of having to out-Tory the Tories they were finally rewarded with a party. Never mind New Labour and champagne. This was an afternoon where they could allow themselves to down good old fashioned foaming pints of beer in their Labour clubs and look old party stalwarts in the eye.

Mr Brown announced cumulative increases for each of the next three years. He had an election bribe of £10bn for the year 2001.

THE SKETCH



MICHAEL BROWN

alone. "This is what we mean by education, education, education." Yes, Gordon. Otherwise known as spend, spend, spend.

With one arm on his makeshift

lectern of two hands he punched out figures with his other fist hitting the table rather like a Methodist preacher might hammer away in the pulpit.

The speedometer overshot the legal limit as he opened the arm rest between the seats and found a little package marked "local authority capital receipts". These had been left lying around by the last owner, the Tory government, and were worth £3.6bn for renovating one and a half million homes.

Out of the glove compartment he found even more goodies to please Labour backbenchers. Free eye tests for pensioners; from next April every pensioner will have a

minimum income guarantee. As he turned to the National Health Service he was doing over 100mph and was still accelerating. "For the coming three years I am announcing an increase in Health Service funding of a total of £21 billion," Labour members went berserk. Prudence had fainted and was slumped on the back seat. Tories saw the vehicle coming towards them and tried to jump out of the way.

Suddenly he screeched to a halt. "As a result of prudence... £40bn will be invested in the nation's priorities." At the mention of her name Prudence woke up but as the vehicle came to a halt she shot forward because she had not been wearing her safety belt. She sustained dreadful injuries and may never be heard of again. Labour backbenchers roared, cheered and jumped up and down - they had never really liked Prudence.

In the mayhem, a rickety police car driven by the shadow Chancellor, Francis Maude, tried in vain to keep up and desperately wanted to arrest Mr Brown for speeding, reckless driving and being under the influence of old Labour.

PC Maude did not catch the Chancellor yesterday for the death of Prudence but his day will come. That day will be either a stock market crash or an economic recession.

Brown puts his trust in stable growth

GORDON BROWN was cheered by Labour backbenchers yesterday as he unveiled a cash injection of £40bn over the next three years for education and health. Education will receive an extra £19bn, with £11bn set aside for health - the biggest investment in the National Health Service, he told MPs.

The Chancellor began his Comprehensive Spending Review statement by telling the House of Commons that the Government's central objectives were stable levels of growth and employment, and sustainable public services.

Public borrowing had been cut by £20bn, through fiscal tightening, which would continue into next year. "And to meet our fiscal rules and in line with cautious and published assumptions... we plan current surpluses for the next three years of £7bn, £10bn and £13bn," he told MPs.

Debt as a proportion of national income would fall below 40 per cent he said, promising: "By the end of this Parliament, debt interest payments will be £5bn a year lower than if we had simply left borrowing at the level inherited from the Tories."

Assuring the House that "the growth in social security spending for this Parliament will be significantly lower than in the last Parliament", Mr Brown said the spending review "has examined the most effective use of public money across and within each department."

"The first innovation of the

CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH
By DAISY SAMPSON

Comprehensive Spending Review is to move from the short-termism of the annual cycle and to draw up public expenditure plans not on a one-year basis but on a three-year basis," he said. The Government would seek "new standards of efficiency to ensure that every penny is well spent".

Mr Brown said each department has reached a "public service agreement" with the Treasury - "effectively a contract... for the renewal of services."

The money would be released to spending departments only if they kept to their agreed plans for reform and modernisation he said, adding that the new system would be overseen by a Cabinet committee. "More resources will go direct to front-line services," such as patient care, classroom teaching and fighting crime, the Chancellor said as a result of his changes.

Mr Brown told MPs to expect, among other "radical reforms" changes to legal aid, asylum procedures, child benefit, youth justice and the withdrawal of unjustified subsidies.

He said central and local government had agreed a programme for the release of £11bn in assets no longer needed for investment in health, education, transport and other essential services. "By securing greater value for money we

will secure more money for what we value."

As a result, services for asylum seekers would be managed by one department rather than five and the three departments responsible for criminal justice would work together to "one set of objectives".

Mr Brown said: "Our prudence has been for a purpose. It is because we gave set tough efficiency targets... that our priorities - health and education - will receive more new money than the other 19 government departments combines."

Declaring this is "what we mean by education, education, education", he announced additional spending of £19bn over the next three years on schools. The Government would spend £3bn more in 1998, £6bn more in 2000 and £10bn more in 2001. That would lead to a 500,000 expansion in numbers of students in higher and further education.

On public transport, Mr Brown said there would be a £2bn boost. "From a 25 per cent decline in transport investment in the last Parliament, there will be a 25 per cent increase in the next three years."

Full details would be set out by the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, in the Transport White Paper, he told the House.

Mr Brown set out a series of measures to help build "safer and stronger communities". There would be more investment for crime prevention and moves to tackle the underlying causes of poverty, with a 25 per



Gordon Brown, flanked by David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education (left) and the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, addresses the Commons

cent increase in funding on tackling drug abuse.

He also said an extra £3.5bn would be released from local authority capital receipts to help tackle homelessness and to renovate 1.5 million homes.

Moving on to welfare policy, Mr Brown said: "For our most deprived estates the key problems are not just poor housing but lack of employment and economic opportunity."

Consequently, a total of £800m would be allocated to the New Deal for Communities, along with a new deal to help the young unemployed to become self-employed.

Of the more popular proposals were plans for the elderly, including the abolition of

eye test charges for pensioners from next April. There would also be help with transport for the elderly in the transport White Paper.

Mr Brown said that Harriet Harman, Secretary of State for Social Security, would announce plans later this week for help with pensioners' fuel bills.

"From next April, every pensioner and pensioner couple will have a minimum income guarantee," he said. The Government would set aside £2.5bn for this programme.

Funds for the BBC World Service are to be raised by £44m over the next three years.

Britain's overseas aid is to increase from 0.25 per cent of national income - the figure

inherited from the Tories - to 0.3 per cent this Parliament.

Turning to the most speculative area of his speech - health - the Chancellor said: "The NHS is expansion in its own right, what its founder, Aneurin Bevan, rightly called the most civilised achievement of modern government."

Promising that the NHS would never be left to the hazards of private or charitable provision under a Labour government, Mr Brown said that tomorrow Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, would announce targets to tackle inefficiencies in hospitals, to simplify management structures and give a new emphasis to long-term planning. Hospi-

tals would be required to publish league tables measuring the success rates of their treatments, and £1bn will be cut from red tape and put into patient care.

"So, on the 50th anniversary of the NHS, this government will now make the biggest ever investment in its future, giving the NHS for the first time for decades, the long term resources it needs," Mr Brown said. He announced a total increase in NHS funding of £21bn over the next three years - compared with an increase of £7bn during the last three years of the Tory government.

While health department spending rose by an average of 2.5 per cent a year in the last

Parliament, it would rise by 5.7 per cent next year and by 4.5 per cent the year after, he said, adding: "We will meet our waiting list pledge as promised."

Every hospital would benefit from the 50 per cent increase in investment in equipment and buildings and the £5bn fund for NHS modernisation - the largest hospital building and modernisation programme this country has seen.

"As we start its next 50 years, the NHS is safe in this government's hands," Mr Brown said. "This government has made the choices necessary to deliver stable and sustainable public finances. We have been steadfast in our priorities - the nation's priorities."

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BARCLAYS	£4,000	17.0%	£98.97	£5,923.20
	£10,000	15.0%	£238.00	£14,380.00
	£16,000	Not available		
LLOYDS	£4,000	16.0%	£94.48	£5,809.92
	£10,000	13.8%	£222.95	£13,617.90
	£16,000	13.8%	£344.75	£21,805.90
ABBEY NATIONAL	£4,000	16.3%	£95.57	£5,734.28
	£10,000	13.4%	£225.70	£13,542.80
	£16,000	Not available		

APRs correct as at 4th July 1998. Sources: Moneyfacts.

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Maude attacks 'dodges' and warns of slide towards recession

CONSERVATIVES ACCUSED Gordon Brown of indulging in "dodges" and "fudge" to make his comprehensive spending review look more generous than it really was.

Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, claimed that Gordon Brown had failed to get a grip on public spending and fallen back on tax rises, with a typical family having to pay a £1,000 a year.

"This is not a comprehensive spending review, it's a comprehensive spending failure. The Chancellor risks spending us into recession," he told the House.

Challenging the Chancellor, Mr Maude said that the £5bn a year cost of the working family tax credit was being taken out of the public spending figures and that a further £1bn a year for welfare-to-work had been

SHADOW
CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH
By DAISY SAMPSON

taken out of benefits spending.

"Aren't these the sort of accounting dodges we last saw from the Paymaster General's old crony Robert Maxwell?" Mr Maude asked.

Labour could not control public spending, he said. "A government without principles can't take hard decisions and is pushed around by every crony in every spending lobby."

Mr Maude said that every one of Labour's welfare reforms had actually cost money, not saved it.

"That's why, despite what you say, your own figures show that social security spending by the last year shown in the book [the Budget red book] is going

to be up by over 20 per cent over this year."

The Shadow Chancellor said Mr Brown should admit that spending would really increase by much more than 3 per cent a year.

While welcoming the extra money on health and education he said: "Under Labour the economy is already faltering. And because you have failed to reform welfare, you are paying for the increase in spending, by raising taxes."

Mr Maude asked the Chancellor: "Will you tell the House, how much of the extra money on health is going to be spent simply on pensioners forced off health insurance by your vindictive attack?"

How much of the extra on education will be spent on pupils forced off the assisted places scheme?



"This is a comprehensive spending failure": Francis Maude (right), with William Hague

"And will you admit that at the end of four years, your spending on education will only be 0.1 per cent of national income more than we actually delivered?"

Claiming that Mr Brown had introduced permanent budget

deficits, increased the national debt and encouraged the state to spend "ever more", Mr Maude told MPs: "In just a few short months the three central pillars of the myth of the Iron Chancellor have rusted away."

Defence cuts

THE CHIEF of Defence Staff was sufficiently concerned about the level of cuts being imposed on the Defence budget that he raised it personally with Tony Blair, it was disclosed yesterday.

General Sir Charles Guthrie confirmed he had discussed the 3 per cent efficiency savings demanded under the Strategic Defence Review at a meeting with Prime Minister.

"I told him that I thought the 3 per cent efficiency savings were a challenging target," Sir Charles said.

THE HOUSE



Sir Charles, giving evidence to the Commons Defence Select Committee, said he believed the savings - that will see £685m wiped off the Defence budget - were achievable although they had been set a "tight, taut" budget.

Today

■ In the Commons: Work and prospects of the British Council; Preparations for Buenos Aires conference on climate change; UK art market; Train services for Northampton; Maritime safety in the fishing industry; Northern Ireland questions; Questions to the Prime Minister; School Standards Bill; Lords amendments; Investigation of death of Edgar Fernandes in Turkey.

■ In the Lords: Government of Wales Bill, third reading; Debate on management of the New Forest (Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, C)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Help for tenants

FUNDING FOR supported accommodation will be extended by 12 months, Harriet Harman, Secretary of State for Social Security, told Jim Fitzpatrick (Lab, Poplar and Canning Town). The scheme would ensure financial security for tenants who relied on housing benefit to pay for support services.

Fewer police

THE NUMBER of police officers in England and Wales has fallen by 214

since March 1997, Ahm Michael, Home Office minister, said in answer to Gillian Merron (Lab, Lincoln). There are 126,944 officers, including 98,387 constables - up 255.

Moscow revamp

THE FOREIGN OFFICE is to spend £48.7m on its facilities in Russia, Tony Lloyd, Foreign Office minister, told Norman Baker (Lib Dem, Lewes). That included £17.8m on new Moscow offices.

Serial killer's book contract seized

THE PRISON SERVICE was last night talking with its legal advisers to try and prevent the serial killer Dennis Nilsen from publishing his autobiography. Senior officials took action after prison officers seized a draft contract that had been posted to the mass murderer at Whitemoor prison in Cambridgeshire. The Prison Service was already investigating how a copy of the 453-page manuscript was smuggled out of the top-security jail.

Jack Straw, the Home Sec-

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

retary, has been determined to prevent criminals profiting from books about their crimes since the outcry over payment to Mary Bell - who killed two children when she herself was a child - for her co-operation on a book about her life by the distinguished author, Gitta Sereny.

A Prison Service spokesman said: "We are consulting with counsel as to whether there is

a means of preventing publication." The draft contract - reported to be worth £100,000 - was confiscated by the prison staff because it was deemed to be a breach of prison service standing orders which prevent inmates from profiting from their crimes. The book, provisionally titled *Waiting for the Man*, is being edited by the gay author Peter Paul Hartnett, a former teacher whose previous work includes the novels *Call Me* and *I Want to Fuck You*. Mr Hartnett's publicist Su-

zanne Martin, based in Soho, central London, said yesterday that she had no idea how her company's name came to be on the draft contract seized at the jail. "We are aware of Hartnett's collaboration with Dennis Nilsen on his memoirs, but we are not - nor will we be - issuing any contract."

Nilsen, 51, is serving life for the murder of up to 15 young men whom he picked up in bars and lured to his flat in Muswell Hill, north London.

In the manuscript, the killer

reportedly states that he killed in order to use the corpses as props for his fantasies. "I pretended it was me being cared for, and at the same time I was also the carer looking after them," he writes.

He also tells how he chopped up the bodies on a wooden board over his bath while drunk on rum before putting the remains in bin bags.

"When recalling what I had to go through, the reader will think it odd that I can't stand the sight of blood," writes Nilsen.

Nilsen, who has been told he will never be released, is anxious that he is not forgotten. He has been allowed to set up a recording studio in his cell, and hopes his music will be made available to the public. The serial killer, who has befriended penal reformers such as Lord Longford, also caused controversy by giving an interview on his crimes from prison for a television documentary.

While the prison service is determined to prevent prisoners making money from writing

about their crimes, it acknowledges that penning an autobiography can be a useful form of therapy. Many jails now have writers in residence, such as the feminist author Sara Maitland, who is based at Ashwell prison in Leicestershire.

Other high-profile inmates who have tried to get their stories published include Moors murderer Myra Hindley and Charles Bronson, who took the Hollywood star's name, writes poetry, and styles himself Britain's most dangerous prisoner.



Nilsen: Jail manuscript

Even our peas are depressed by the rain

BRITAIN'S FARMERS said yesterday they had been hard hit by the recent bad weather which had damaged crops and made harvesting difficult.

Floods have reduced fruit and vegetable supplies and pea producers said yields were down because of the weather.

"It has to have been one of the worst starts to the summer that we have seen for a decade," said David Brown, chief horticultural advisor to the National Farmers Union.

"The wet and damp weather and the lack of sunshine has not helped one little bit. Soft fruits, salad producers, peas and brassica have all suffered."

"Different farmers have been hit in different ways. But it is fair to say that no one has been helped."

He said salad producers suffered further damage because people had no appetite for their produce while the climate is so wet and cloudy.

Mr Brown added: "The last

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

two weeks should have been very good but the demand has simply not been there.

"The only possible silver lining is that in August when people tend not to bother buying tomatoes because they have grown their own, they will be forced to this time because their own crops have failed."

Yesterday the food and finance company, the Albert Fisher Group Plc, announced a shortfall in profits for the first half of 1998 and said one of the reasons was a 25 per cent reduction in its pea harvest.

"We estimated a crop of around 32,000 tonnes but have seen that fall by a quarter," said a spokesman for the company, whose pea-growing operation is centred on Lincolnshire and East Anglia.

"It's been wet, it has been damp and there has been no sun. The peas have not been as prolific as we had hoped."



Strawberry pickers take advantage of a dry spell at Stanhill Farm, near Dartford, Kent

Tom Pilston

A spokesman for the Processed Vegetable Growers Association said the problem was industry-wide and that some growers may suffer more than a 25 per cent shortfall.

"Peas hate the wet and love the sun. At the moment they have seen very little sun and

they have wet feet," he said.

"There's not much growers can do about it except harvest whatever crop they are left with."

In the West Country, pick-your-own farmers have also felt the pain, partly because there have been fewer tourists

as a result of the gloomy weather. Although strawberries have been largely unaffected there is a danger they could rot if they are left too long.

"We've had to employ 20 more people than normal to help pick the fruit," said Jan Butterley, manager of the

Nynehead fruit farm near Wellington, Somerset.

"The rain helps the weeds grow and the mud has made the paths a disaster. We've put down bales of hay on top of the mud so at least people can walk."

Forecasts for today suggest

a mixture of sunny spells and showers for most of the country with south Wales and the South-west turning wet by this evening.

The outlook for tomorrow and Friday suggests cool, changing weather with sunny spells and showers.

Trance 'led to man's trauma'

THE GIRLFRIEND of a man who claims he suffered from schizophrenia after being put in a trance by the hypnotist Paul McKenna wept as she told the High Court in London of the "terrible" times they went through during his illness.

Beverly Gibbs said that Christopher Gates had been afraid to go upstairs because he believed God was always watching him and he was being told off for bad things he had done.

She was giving evidence in Mr Gates' £200,000 damages action against Mr McKenna for psychiatric injuries he claims to have suffered after being hypnotised at the Swan Theatre in High Wycombe, Bucks, four years ago.

Nine days after the show, Mr Gates, a furniture polisher, of Downley, High Wycombe, was admitted to hospital as an in-patient suffering from an acute schizophrenic episode. His mental problems continued and he is unemployed.

Mr McKenna, from Kensington, denies negligence and contends Mr Gates' illness was not caused by hypnosis.

The hearing continues today.

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Hague launches the Tory chat show



Mr Hague in perpetual motion yesterday, at a shadow-cabinet meeting (left), at the launch of the 'listening' drive (centre), and being grilled by schoolboys (right). John Voos

BY JACK O'SULLIVAN

"EXPLAIN TO me why we're here," one of William Hague's press officials whispered to one of his colleagues. "It's a press conference launching our 'Listening to Britain' campaign," he answered.

"But why here?" asked the first official, surveying the flashy Imagination Gallery in central London. "Why not Central Office?" The reply came: "Because we want to show people we've got imagination."

Which is why Mr Hague yesterday announced a year-long consultation with voters, from a lectern flanked by two black Christmas trees. "They're from the same florist as supplied flowers for Four Weddings and a Funeral and Elton John's 50th birthday party," boasted the gallery. It wasn't clear whether the Tory leader, with his deputy, Peter Lilley, spotted the trees as he swept into the gallery to a drumbeat composed by the party's IT department. But a man who was recently hospitalised with sinusitis was clearly delighted with the show.

A raft of former Cabinet ministers, Gillian Shephard, John Redwood and John Maples among them, had turned out to support his contention that the Tories are no longer elitists buried in Central Office but the listening party. A billboard with pictures of ordinary folk said in the style of a recruitment poster: "SPEAK OUT".

Mr Hague promised 150 meetings across the country in the coming year in which ordinary people would have their say. But I had a query. Weren't those happy faces on the billboard party workers? "Ah," said Lord Parkinson, party chairman, grinning sheepishly. "I'll say no more than that I may have seen one or two before."

Nevertheless, Mr Hague was clearly taken with meeting real people. "Listening to Britain has already been tried out," he declared triumphantly, like a great inventor.

He was referring to his earlier breakfast in his offices with 20 NHS staff. That was after he had already done five radio interviews, having risen at 6.15am. The NHS guests had come to tell him their woes, over croissants and coffee, and offer hints on how to run the health service better. "We want to speak to the people we feel we've alienated last time around," said Alan Duncan, the party's

health spokesman. "These people are absolutely non-partisan. We don't know what they think."

For an hour, they talked of low morale, the impossibility of bringing down waiting lists and of the tricks being used to cut the figures. You had to pinch yourself to remember that the Tories are no longer in government and want to be their cheerleaders. "We're just playing a game over waiting lists," said one manager.

Mr Hague sat silently, letting Mr Duncan mine them for information. "What about the Millennium Bug?" he asked. "At least it will make the waiting lists disappear," said one. Everyone laughed.

But William Hague is not a big joker. "He doesn't turn heads," said one guest, a clinical nursing specialist. "He's too nice, too gentle." Though a Tory voter, she couldn't see him as prime minister. "Not enough charisma," she said.

A nursing student, also a Conservative voter agreed. "By the time the Tories get back in, he'll have been blown away." But one of the GP's was impressed. "Oh yes, he would definitely make a prime minister. He's much more relaxed than on television." And how did she vote? "I shilly-shally, but I suppose I'm a Conservative."

Three out of three Tory voters ... perhaps the big test for this first day of "Listening to Britain" would be the lower sixth-formers at Langley Park School for Boys in Beckenham, south London. The boys have half an hour with Mr Hague before he has to rush back to the Commons for Gordon Brown's spending statement.

"What do you think of tuition fees?" asks Andrew Lansley, party vice-chairman, as the leader looks on. "I don't agree with it, but it's for you to solve, not us," says one boy.

"I think we owe everyone a certain standard of living," says another. "Mmm uh huh," says the listening leader, biting his lip. Things are hotting up. "What would you like to say to the Leader of the Opposition, your next prime minister? Ha ha, at least that's the aim," says Mr Lansley.

Matthew Jefferies, 17, a vicar's son, raises his hand: "It seems to me you are looking for solutions to help you back into power. It's very valuable information. So if I did know, I probably wouldn't tell you, to be honest." Everyone laughed. It was hard to fault the logic.

Minder shook baby 'as hard as possible'

BY DIANA BLAMIRE

A BABY DIED after being shaken "backwards and forwards as hard as possible", a jury heard yesterday. Five-month-old Joseph Mackin died due to a "deep brain injury" after being subjected to considerable violence, pathologist, Dr Nat Cary, told Norwich Crown Court. The baby's childminder, Helen Stacey, 41, of North Walsham, Norfolk, denies murdering him at her home in May last year.

Dr Cary, a Home Office pathologist based at Papworth Hospital, Cambridge, told the jury that Joseph had suffered "quite extensive" bleeding to his brain. The injuries could not have been accidentally caused by another child. Post mortem tests also revealed bruising in muscles around Joseph's neck. "Death in this circumstance was the direct consequence of a head injury," said Dr Cary. "This was not just a small bleed to the brain, this was quite extensive. Force of this kind ... may be seen in relation to a road traffic accident, or falls from considerable heights."

"It is a classical injury of the kind seen in what is called 'shaken infant syndrome'. It arises from very violent shaking, and the head rocks backwards and forwards.... It may have been caused by impact with a cushioned surface.... To put it in context, you may shake somebody to wake them up. This is way in excess of that. It is basically picking up an infant and shaking it backwards and forwards as hard as you possibly can. It is that sort of level of force that is required ... sustained shaking."

Joseph's parents, Anthony and Corinne Mackin, told the court on Monday that Joseph was healthy and happy when he was dropped off at Stacey's house on the morning of 13 May



Baby Joseph Mackin

last year. Mr Mackin said that when he collected Joseph late that afternoon it was obvious that the baby was extremely ill. Joseph was declared dead about an hour later.

The court was told that Stacey, a registered childminder who had been caring for Joseph and his sister Samantha, now three, for four days, said that the baby had been unwell all day. But the jury was told she had failed to contact Mrs or Mr Mackin, who also live in North Walsham, or to call a doctor.

A second pathologist, who examined Joseph's eyes, agreed with Dr Cary's analysis. Michael Green, Professor of Forensic Pathology at the University of Leeds, said there was bleeding in the retinas of Joseph's eyes which was normally associated with shaking injuries. He added: "Bleeding on the front of the retina and into the front of the retina is classically associated with 'shaken baby syndrome'. The child would have shown some signs of sickness straight away. He would have gone floppy. His cries would have changed. His eyes would have rolled and so on." He thought the injury would probably have happened shortly before the baby's death. The case continues.

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Leeds University fine art degree students on Clayton beach in the hoax which won them a joint first

Keith Meatheringham

Students' hoax praised in the highest degree

BY CLARE GARNER

WHEN STUDENTS faked a holiday to Spain and called it art, it was considered by some to be little more than a carefully executed prank. But the only opinion that counted - that of their examiners - has ruled that it was first class art.

The 13 third-year fine art students from Leeds University have been awarded a joint first for their bluff and double-bluff end-of-term project which successfully tricked tutors, critics and the media alike.

In the eyes of Terry Atkinson, their tutor and examiner, the hoax holiday merited the highest grade. "It was original, it asked questions about art education and art itself, and shows a lot of awareness of the historical problems of art practice," he said. "The administration and managing of the project was astounding."

In May the students invited their tutors to the opening of their exhibition, *Going Places*. The tutors promptly found

themselves herded onto a coach and driven to Leeds Bradford airport, where the students were strolling through Customs. They said they had spent the project's £1,800 sponsorship money on a week of sunshine and nightlife in the Costa del Sol. Their purpose, they claimed, was to challenge the boundaries of art.

Following an outcry, the students said they had not been to Spain but had been hiding at home all week, getting tanned on a sun lounger and taking their "Estrepona" holiday snaps in Cayton Sands, near Scarborough. The airport authorities colluded with them, even putting a fake announcement on the flight arrivals board. The students' purpose was - once again - to "challenge people's perception of art".

Mr Atkinson insisted that the extensive publicity for Leeds University had nothing to do

with the final mark. "I think it was mainly aimed internally. What they mainly wanted to do was ask questions of the department. They thought they might get some media coverage but it exceeded their wildest dreams. That brought a new dimension."

But David Lee, editor of *Art Review*, said: "The motto would seem to be to generate column inches and get awarded a first. The trouble these days is most people confuse the ability to create a rumour with the ability to create good work."

Mr Lee said *Going Places* was a product of the "Stalinistic artists' union" operating in this country. The most important and insidious thing is that the students are being coerced into working in a certain way in order to get themselves noticed and get a career. They know that unless they do conceptual art they won't get public funding for what they do. It's as simple as that."

Water leakage falls 10% in a year

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

WATER LEAKAGE levels fell by more than 10 per cent last year as nearly all the water companies in England and Wales met or beat the targets set by the industry regulator.

But Ian Byatt, director general of Ofwat, warned yesterday that some companies had only achieved their targets because of the mild winter, while others had a lot to do to achieve this year's targets.

He also rejected industry claims that the majority of companies were now close to their "economic" rate of leakage - the level at which it is cheaper to find new sources of water than to continue plugging leaks in the system.

Three companies - Anglian, Portsmouth and Mid Kent - failed to meet their leakage targets. Mr Byatt said he was satisfied with the explanations given by Portsmouth and Mid Kent. But he has put Anglian on probation, ordering the company to report to him on its progress every three months.

The industry's target was to reduce leakage levels by just over 5 per cent from 4,528 megalitres a day in 1996-97 to 4,285 megalitres a day in 1997-98. In the event leakage rates fell by 12 per cent to 3,980 megalitres a day. The target for the current year is a daily leak rate of 3,612 megalitres - a reduction of just over 9 per cent.

A spokesman for the industry body Water UK said the reduction in leakage was equivalent to the capacity of a medium sized reservoir. In the

past two years the industry had reduced leaks by enough to serve a city the size of Birmingham three times over.

The improvement in performance comes after severe criticism of the industry for failing to tackle leaks with sufficient vigour. Some firms, including Thames, are now offering to repair leaks on customers' premises free of charge. However, Thames has included a proviso stating that unless the offer is taken up households may be taken to court.

The national leakage rate is now down to about 20 per cent against what the industry regards as an "economic" rate of about 15 per cent. However Mr Byatt said the quality of the studies on which the industry based its estimates were not very high. "Nor am I convinced by arguments made by the majority of companies that they are already close to their economic levels of leakage."

Thames had the highest level of leakage of any supplier at 906 megalitres a day. However, this was below its target of 962 megalitres and represented a 16 per cent fall on the previous year.

The biggest reduction in leakage rates was at the Folkestone and Dover water company which reduced leakage by 25 per cent. South West Water, which has the highest water bills in the country, achieved a 22 per cent reduction.

The regulator said Anglian had missed its target because it had discovered previously underestimated leakage, mainly from trunk mains.

TOTAL LEAKAGE: REPORTED FIGURES				
	96/97* target	97/98* achieved	97/98* target	reduction from 96/97 to 97/98, %
Thames	1083	962	906	16
North West	666	705	579	13
Severn Trent	479	410	389	17
Yorkshire	420	434	368	12
Welsh Water	357	354	337	6
Anglian	236	211	235	0
Northumbrian	192	187	184	4
Wessex	129	124	110	15
South West	129	110	101	22
Southern	113	100	99	12
Total	3803	3597	3317	13

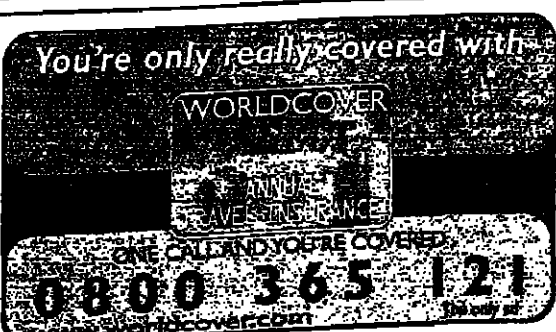
*Megalitres/day

Source: OFWAT

DAVID MCKITTRICK

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—THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4—



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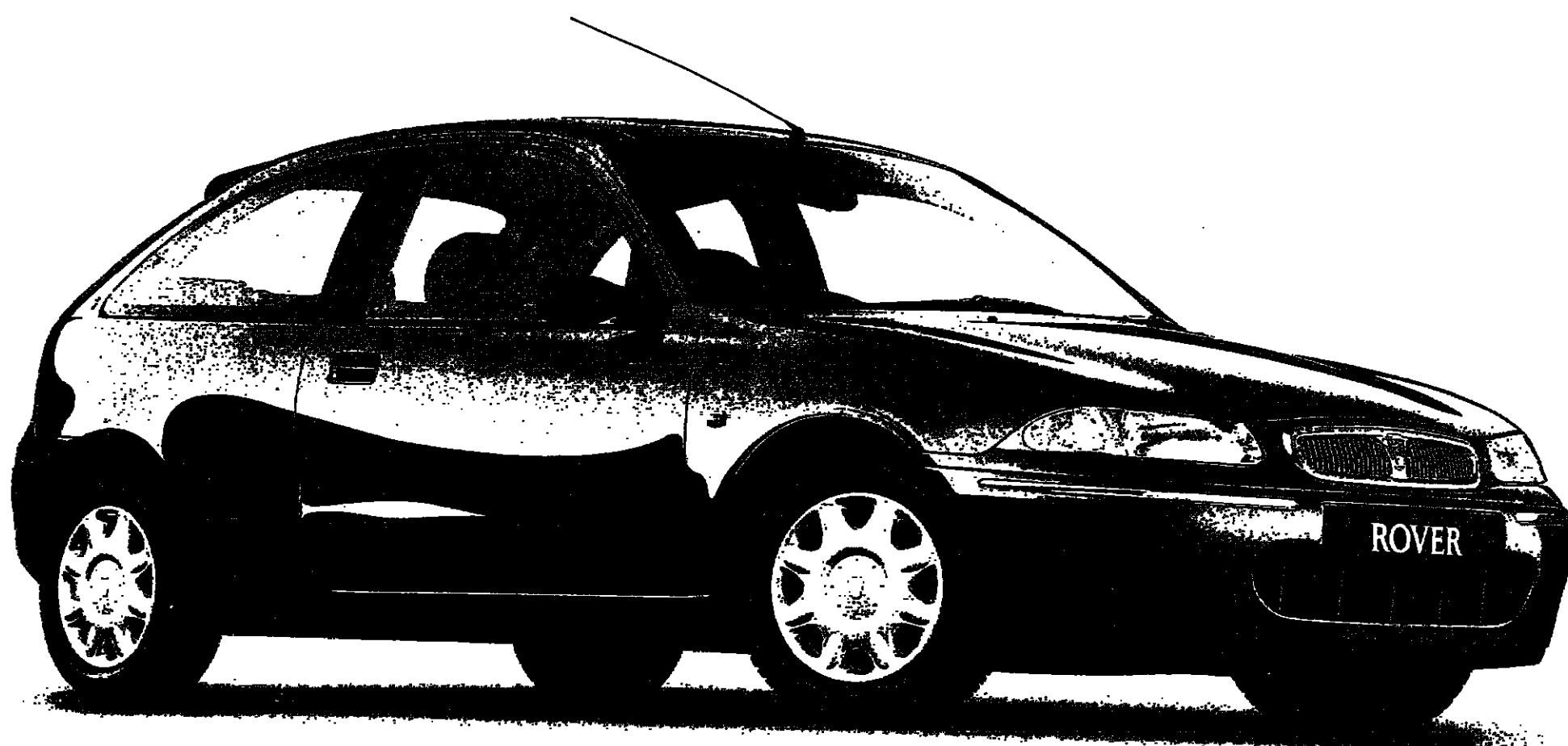


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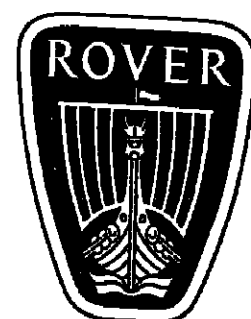
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صكنا من الامل

Bibi is engulfed by legal scandal

BY PATRICK COCKBURN
in Jerusalem

IT IS a scandal which has everything. At its centre is the trial of Nahum Manbar, businessman and former Israeli paratrooper, found guilty last month, but not yet sentenced, for selling equipment to make poison gas to the Iranians.

This week he was to face Amnon Strashnov, the presiding judge in the trial, to receive what was likely to be a lengthy sentence. Instead the Israeli media and political elite was convulsed yesterday by allegations that Judge Strashnov was having an affair with one of the defence lawyers and also discussing the case with Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister.

Amnon Zichroni, Mr Manbar's lawyer, says he has firm evidence that the judge was having an affair with Pinat Yanai, 26, a member of the defence team who has now been fired. He also says she was intimately involved with Shai Bazak, the prime minister's spokesman. Mr Netanyahu had earlier demanded that Mr Manbar receive an exemplary sentence.

Not surprisingly the juiciness of the scandal meant that Israeli radio news yesterday covered the affair for 20 minutes before briefly turning to the UN's condemnation of Israel for planning to expand the borders of Jerusalem.

So far, at least, the Manbar affair resembles the Monica

Lewinsky scandal in Washington in that the accusations come primarily from a single not very objective source, in this case Ms Yanai's ex-boyfriend. She herself denies having an affair with Judge Strashnov, a former army prosecutor known for tolerance to soldiers accused of breaking the arms and legs of Palestinians, though she once worked for him. Judge Strashnov says he cannot comment on the allegations.

Unfortunately for Mr Netanyahu he had already involved himself in the trial when Mr Manbar was found guilty by denouncing him and demanding that he receive a lengthy sentence. He said he should "pay heavily for the horrible thing he did".

Mr Manbar's fault is apparently that he at first sold weaponry to Iran with the permission of the Shin Bet, the domestic security agency, but refused to stop when they told him to. He was secretly arrested in 1997 when he landed at Tel Aviv airport.

Mr Manbar, understandably enough, says that if he is guilty, so are several hundred other people. During the Iran-Iraq war between 1980 and 1988, Israel supplied Iran with high-technology weapons and spare parts for American-made aircraft.

Mr Manbar sent some 150 tons of equipment to Iraq to make chemical and biological weapons, but it is unclear where he purchased it. Some



Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister, is accused of interfering in an arms dealer's trial. Eyal Warshawsky

Israeli press reports refer to Mr Manbar providing manufacturing facilities for nerve gas, but this is not something freely available on the market. The scandal began to break when Nissim Zvili, a Labour member of the Knesset, accused Mr Netanyahu of becoming involved in the case. He said: "It seems Netanyahu initiated talks with Strashnov, in which they discussed the trial, procedure and other elements." This broke the gag order previously imposed by the Supreme Court.

Rape evidence stalls war trial

BY JANET MCBRIDE
in The Hague

THE TRIAL of suspected war criminal Bosnian Croat Anto Furundzija ran into trouble yesterday when doubt was cast on the evidence of the prosecution's star witness. The judges ordered the case to be reopened to allow further examination of rape testimony by the witness on whose evidence the case hinges.

Furundzija, the former commander of "The Jokers" a paramilitary special unit, was arrested by NATO-led troops in Vitez, central Bosnia, last December. He is on trial for allegedly standing by as a subordinate raped and tortured a Muslim woman, Witness A. The trial ended last month and the verdict was expected today.

But yesterday the judges attacked the prosecution for failing to present psychiatric evidence which could undermine the woman's testimony.

Furundzija's case is one of six before the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia and arises from the ethnic cleansing of Muslims in the Lasva Valley area of central Bosnia in 1993.

Presiding Judge Florence Mumba ordered the prosecutor to hand over all relevant medical documents to the defence and said the defence team should be allowed to recall Witness A and any others who could testify on her mental state. But she rejected a de-

fence motion to strike Witness A's testimony and declined to order a retrial.

Such decisions lay beyond the court's jurisdiction, said Mumba, adding: "It is obvious that Witness A received counselling or treatment as a result of the (alleged rape and torture). There is no question that this is relevant. It is clearly relevant."

The chamber feels that the prosecution did not fulfil the mandate of disclosure and it did prejudice the right of the accused to a proper defence.

Furundzija, 29, sat quietly through the hearing, listening to the judges' comments through an interpreter. The prosecution's case hinges on Witness A, who is protected. She testified in closed session.

According to the indictment, Furundzija failed to intervene when another accused beat Witness A then forced her to have oral and vaginal intercourse with him at the Jokers' headquarters in a complex called "The Bungalow" in the town of Nadioci.

In the motion to annul Witness A's evidence, the defence accused prosecutors of withholding information showing the woman suffered psychological trauma, was under psychiatric care and subject to memory suppression.

The reopening of the Furundzija trial, probably at the end of August, and the judge's complaints are the latest in a spate of setbacks for the prosecution.

Sports Commentary by Nicky Clarke.

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Mugabe speeds up plans to seize farms

ZIMBABWE'S WHITE farmers have been warned they could lose their land sooner than they had feared as the government speeds up a controversial land reallocation programme.

In a speech at the official opening of a new session of parliament yesterday the country's embattled President Robert Mugabe gave no fresh details of his drive to seize mostly white-owned commercial farms but said he was under pressure from land-hungry black peasants.

The 74-year-old president also hinted that he intends to curb the country's small but sharply critical independent press.

Last November Mr Mugabe listed about 1,500 commercial farms for the first phase of a programme he argues is vital to correcting the current land ownership imbalance, securing social peace and economically empowering the black majority.

The government says about 4,500 whites occupy 70 per cent of Zimbabwe's best farmland while more than 700,000 peasants are crowded in scrubby, infertile communal lands.

Many white farmers say

BY CRIS CHINAKA
in Harare

they accept the principle of land redistribution, but along with international donors say it should be voluntary and based on adequate compensation.

Initially Mr Mugabe insisted he would not pay for the land but just for the buildings and improvements, on the grounds that whites had "stole" the land when they colonised the country in 1890.

However government ministers - but not Mr Mugabe - now say the issue of "full compensation" might be addressed if foreign donors support the 40 billion Zimbabwe dollars (£1.4bn) programme at a conference set for September.

Mr Mugabe hinted he was now looking to local rather than international sources of support.

"While we welcome the financial and material support from the donor community, we should always primarily rely on the strength and resources of our people."

"The national land reform and resettlement programme will be accelerated in the current year," he said, reiterating that hundreds of peasants

would be resettled on 112 farms before the start of the 1998-99 November to April cropping season.

He said the programme was being brought forward in the wake of recent attempts by some peasants to occupy farms on their own.

On the eve of the opening of parliament, the embattled Mr Mugabe also warned he might curtail Zimbabwe's independent newspapers.

"We have seen tendencies in our press to try and sell their papers on the basis of manufactured lies and the so-called opposition press is thriving on lies," the official news agency Zina quoted Mr Mugabe as saying at a reception on Monday night.

"Shall we allow this to continue? Shall papers of that nature be allowed to manufacture lies at the expense of individuals? I say no."

State-controlled newspapers, radio and television dominate Zimbabwe's media.

"Let the gutter press take heed because we are not going to have this kind of journalism in this country," Mr Mugabe said. "It cannot be freedom of expression if you are telling lies and defaming individuals."

German to be simplified

GERMANY'S HIGHEST court cleared the way yesterday for a reform of the German language that noted writers and many ordinary Germans oppose.

The Federal Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe ruled the changes - the first major overhaul of written German in nearly a century - were constitutional.

The verdict sets a legal precedent for several other challenges against the reform, scheduled to take effect 1 August after years of debate over how to simplify one of the world's more complex languages. Changes include shortening lengthy compound words, cutting comma rules to

BY TONY CZUCZKA
in Bonn

quicken the flow of writing, new spellings and fewer exceptions to writing rules.

But opponents still hope to punch a hole in the reform. A 27 September referendum in Schleswig-Holstein would, if approved, legally bar the state from applying the changes, which culture ministers from Germany, Switzerland and Austria agreed in 1996.

The other two countries seem to take the changes in their stride. But in rule-loving Germany more than 100 prominent authors and academics signed an appeal urging politicians to stop the reform, calling it "absolutely unnecessary in most respects."

Signers included Germany's best-known author, Guenter Grass, who wrote *The Tin Drum*.

Some of the changes bring German closer to English. Sentences such as "He's the man who came to dinner" have needed a comma before "who" in German but won't require it in future.

And Germans will no longer "cleanup" but "clean up" - as in "sauber machen". Other words will be spelled more phonetically. Dolphin, for example, will be spelled "Delphin" instead of "Delfin". (In German, nouns are capitalised - one thing that will stay the same under the new rules.)

NICKY CLARKE

Clinton leads war on millennium bug

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON yesterday announced a raft of new proposals to head off the year 2000 computer problem by encouraging companies to help themselves. The United States' approach is likely to shape responses around the world.

The Year 2000, or Y2K problem (called the millennium bug in Britain) is caused by bad programming. Computer programmers set dates on computers to store only the last two digits of the year, and thus 2000 is indistinguishable from 1900. Apparently programmers did not foresee that the year 2000 would occur, shortly after 1999. Now, the computer industry wants to be bailed out from a problem which it created. It is also concerned that it may be held legally responsible for its mistakes.

Mr Clinton proposed shielding companies from liability for advice and information that they offer to others in solving the problem. The "Good Samaritan" legislation which he proposed would make it easier for companies to set up clearing houses for solutions. Companies would still, however, be liable for any problems with products or machines which they themselves had produced.

The plan would also include an information technology job site on the World Wide Web where employers could meet experts. And it would fund \$12m (£7m) to support the World Bank's campaign to improve awareness of the problem in the developing world. Many poorer countries have spent large sums on machines that will simply fail to work.

The problem may well be bigger for America than anywhere else because so much of every-

day life relies on computers. The President will launch a Council on Year 2000 Conversion later this month to bring together public and private sector experts on the problem, and study how to remedy it.

Wall Street held a dress rehearsal for the millennium on Monday, loading its computers with data for 29 December 1999 and simulating what happens three days afterwards when the trades are completed. The rehearsal will continue for two weeks, and is intended to prepare the ground for a much larger test next year. The exercise involved 29 securities firms and 12 exchanges, but it was limited to one country. The fear is that when the champagne corks pop, stock markets connected across the world will react in different ways, producing chaos. The securities industry is spending up to \$6bn to make itself millennium-compliant.

As well as defending itself, Wall Street is busily scurrying to find ways of making money out of the millennium crash. Securities firm Merrill Lynch has produced a report reviewing companies' responses, and estimating which are good investments on the strength of it. It concludes that while there is a problem for a number of sectors, including banking and utilities, it is not catastrophic. And the computer companies - which caused the problem in the first place - are benefiting by selling solutions to customers who bought the badly-designed machines.

■ If Congress does not pass legislation against the tobacco industry, the White House will consider suing the industry to recover health care costs, a spokesman said yesterday. The Republicans defeated plans to raise cigarette prices and limit the industry.



Women gather in Baghdad yesterday on the 10th anniversary of the coup that toppled the Iraqi monarchy. AFP

Gucci murder trial in turmoil

BY ANNE HANLEY
in Rome

THE ALLEGED murder of luxury leatherwear magnate Maurizio Gucci was a family affair arranged not only by his former wife, Patrizia Reggiani, but by her aged mother too, according to Giuseppina Auremma, the Neapolitan medium on trial for setting up the Gucci killing in March 1995.

In a spontaneous statement which threw yesterday's session of the Gucci murder trial into disarray, Ms Auremma said she had withheld the whole truth since being arrested in February 1997. "I always said that no one else knew about the killing, but now I admit that Silvana Barbieri knew everything," she claimed. "They'd been trying to find a killer for years."

Ms Auremma dropped her bombshell on the day that the former Mrs Gucci took the witness stand for the first time to convince the court that her often-expressed wish to see her former husband dead was no more than the deluded fantasy of a sick woman.

"I asked everyone and anyone to murder him... It was an obsession," Ms Reggiani told the court. To then take concrete steps to make her obsession come true, she argued yesterday, would have been madness. "Do you honestly think," she asked, "that when the whole world knew that I was looking



Patrizia Reggiani leaving court yesterday. AP

for a killer, I'd go to Auremma and ask her to find me one?"

Ms Auremma maintains that is what happened. She has admitted to contacting hotel owner Ivano Stivioni, who found a driver and a hitman to dispose of Gucci on 27 March 1995. But while she says she acted on precise orders, Ms Reggiani says her former friend used her own initiative. "I absolutely deny having ordered Gucci's murder," she said in court.

The relationship between the Guccis began to fall apart in the early Nineties. After a stormy divorce in 1994, Ms Reggiani began to dwell on the need to dispose of Gucci who was, she feared, squandering her two daughters' inheritance. At that point, she says, she began verbalising what were no more than homicidal fantasies. The trial continues.

Spain's rising star befriends Blair

BY ELIZABETH NASH
in Madrid

SPAIN'S SOCIALIST Party leader, Josep Borrell, arrives in Britain tomorrow for his first meeting with Tony Blair at the invitation of the Foreign Office, who always like to check out a potential future European prime minister.

So seismic has been the impact of Mr Borrell's unexpected election as party leader in April, that the Socialists' expectation of years in the wilderness have yielded to the prospect of electoral victory within two years. A weekend poll gave the ruling Popular Party a lead over the Socialists of only 1.4 points and the Socialists always deliver more votes than polls predict.

Mr Blair is likely to hit it off with Mr Borrell, not just because of their obvious political sympathy, but because their personal and political style have much in common. Mr Borrell approaches his predecessor Felipe Gonzalez in skill and charisma, and behind his articulate defence of social justice and equality, he carries light ideological baggage in a party that puts personalities before policies.

A former public works min-

ister, Mr Borrell, 53, defeated Mr Gonzalez's hand-picked successor as party leader after receiving overwhelming support in Spain's first primaries. He will be scrutinising the experience of New Labour for lessons on how to consolidate his position in the party machine and transmute that support into electoral victory.

The Labour Party has picked up on the Socialists' concern about Mr Blair's blossoming relationship with Spain's Conservative Prime Minister, Jose Maria Aznar. Mr Aznar, always on the lookout for powerful European friends, declares his affinity with Mr Blair whom he calls "my friend" and "a centrist, like me."

Diplomatic sources suggest the friendship is reciprocated, and that Mr Blair was flattered by the warm welcome Mr Aznar extended to Cherie Blair, their children and his mother-in-law during their brief visit at Easter. Spain's Socialists feared the bond between the two young prime ministers could leave Mr Borrell - Mr Blair's natural political ally - scrambling to cover lost ground. Tony Blair's popularity is huge in Spain, and the meeting will enhance Mr Borrell's standing.

MILES KINGTON

"Hewitt tells how he has spent the last year looking for all the relics of Diana which were going to make him rich"

— THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 2 —



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صكنا من الاميل

Indonesian troops on torture charges

SEVEN MEMBERS of an elite army unit, led by the son-in-law of former president Suharto, were arrested yesterday for kidnapping and torturing opponents of the former Indonesian leader. The arrests came after a statement by the military hinting that members of the Indonesian special forces, known as Kopassus, may have played a part in the riots that led to Mr Suharto's downfall.

This appears to confirm what has been rumoured in Indonesia for months: that elements within the army played an active role in suppressing the democratic movement, and may even have stirred up instability as a prelude to seizing power.

A spokesman for the Indonesian armed forces (Abri) said members of Kopassus were involved in the abduction and imprisonment of nine political activists on the orders of their former commander, General Prabowo Subianto, the husband of one of Mr Suharto's daughters.

"Several Kopassus personnel were involved in the kidnapping and unauthorised detention of Pius Lutri Anang, Desmond Mahesa, Hariyanto Taslam, Andi Arief, Feisol Reza and Rahardjo Waluyo, as well as the unauthorised detention of Nezar Patria, Alan Rusdiyanto and Mugiyanto," the Abri statement said.

By RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

"They are suspected of having violated procedures, which started from some order from the head of Kopassus, to uncover radical activities. However, in carrying it out, actions which exceeded the limits were committed, with the unauthorised detention of the victims in violation of the law."

Several of the abducted described being taken from the streets, blindfolded, and held in windowless cells, where they were questioned about their political activities and tortured with electric shocks. Eight were eventually released and several later fled abroad. Rumours of General Prabowo's complicity in the abductions have been circulating in Jakarta for months, but this is the first time that the possibility of his involvement has been publicly acknowledged by the military.

Even more intriguing is the hint that elements in the military may have engineered two days of rioting that brought to an end Mr Suharto's 32-year rule a week later. The Abri statement said it has identified the existence of "several people" who engineered the riots on 13 and 14 May. "Based on the findings, it can be concluded that the incident [the rioting] was extremely complex and represented an accumulation of social, political and economic problems - which had been buried for a long time - which exploded under the 'medium of reform' that dashed the pillars of law, as well as the nation's moral ethics," it said.

An ambitious and precociously successful officer, General Prabowo was removed from the command of Kopassus the day after Mr Suharto's resignation on 21 March by the armed forces commander, General Wiranto. According to politicians and foreign diplomats in Jakarta, the generals were engaged in a fierce struggle for power within Abri, in which General Wiranto won.

They speculate that troops loyal to General Prabowo deliberately inflamed local people, triggering the riots. On the pretext of restoring order and protecting Mr Suharto, they would then have seized power. A senior source in Jakarta said that on 20 May, the night before Mr Suharto's resignation, Kopassus troops took up positions overlooking the national parliament, which had been taken over by student protesters. They intended to fire on the students, but stood down after General Prabowo failed to find the necessary support from other commanders.

In a separate report, an organisation in Jakarta called the Volunteers of Humanity claimed that at least 162 women, most of them of Chinese descent, were raped during the May riots.

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Women sit beneath a statue of Gandhi at the Indian parliament, protesting at the deferment of a Bill ensuring a third of seats are reserved for females

IN BRIEF

Algerian media stage protest

ABOUT 100 journalists held a noisy protest outside the Algerian Prime Minister Ahmed Ouyahia yesterday to protest against an order to evict colleagues from a hotel where they live under government protection. The journalists called for "Freedom, Dignity and Security" during the one-hour rally.

Israel berated

ISRAEL'S REPORT to the United Nations on its human-rights record was attacked by international rights groups. Amnesty said the lack of mention of Palestinian territories was "unacceptable... given the scale... of the human-rights violations". Human Rights Watch, based in New York, said the report "seriously misrepresents Israel's human-rights record."

Kenya news ban

PROTESTS AGAINST the Kenyan government's decision effectively to ban three local newspapers grew yesterday with 25 diplomatic missions expressing concern and disappointment at the move. A statement from the embassies of the biggest and most influential donor countries said the move was "without apparent justification".

Papal discord

AS VOICES go, it wouldn't win any Grammy awards, but Pope John Paul's low, hoarse and not always on-key tones are jealously guarded, as the Roman fashion designer Kean Etro, discovered when he planned to use a snippet of papal Gregorian chant for his haute couture fashion show tomorrow. He had to change his tune when Vatican lawyers threatened legal action.

Hong Kong sacks its PR chief

THE HONG KONG government is about to get rid of Thomas Chan, its chief spin doctor, a sure sign that this accident-prone administration is desperate to find a way of restoring confidence.

Floundering governments have a habit of blaming their problems on bad public relations and so it is hardly surprising that senior Hong Kong officials want a new boss for the very large Government Information Services department.

Public relations disasters are hitting Hong Kong from every direction. The latest disaster, the bungling of the new airport opening, has struck at the territory's most vulnerable point because it is undermining

By STEPHEN VINES
in Hong Kong

its role as a major trading centre. Before that, the administration was battling to retain credibility as it tried to pretend that Hong Kong was somehow immune from the Asian financial crisis. Now officials have been forced to admit the economy is going into recession.

Every day brings new evidence of the government's plunging opinion-poll ratings, and even its most stalwart supporters are expressing doubts about its competence.

Faced by a truly amazing succession of climatic problems and health and food poisoning scares, the government

has managed to compound these natural disasters by its management of the problems.

Meanwhile, Tung Chee-hwa, the chief executive, has gone to ground. Part of his problem is that he does not trust the officials around him and is immersed in an extraordinary battle for control of the government machinery between his pro-Peking advisers and the civil service machine he inherited from the British.

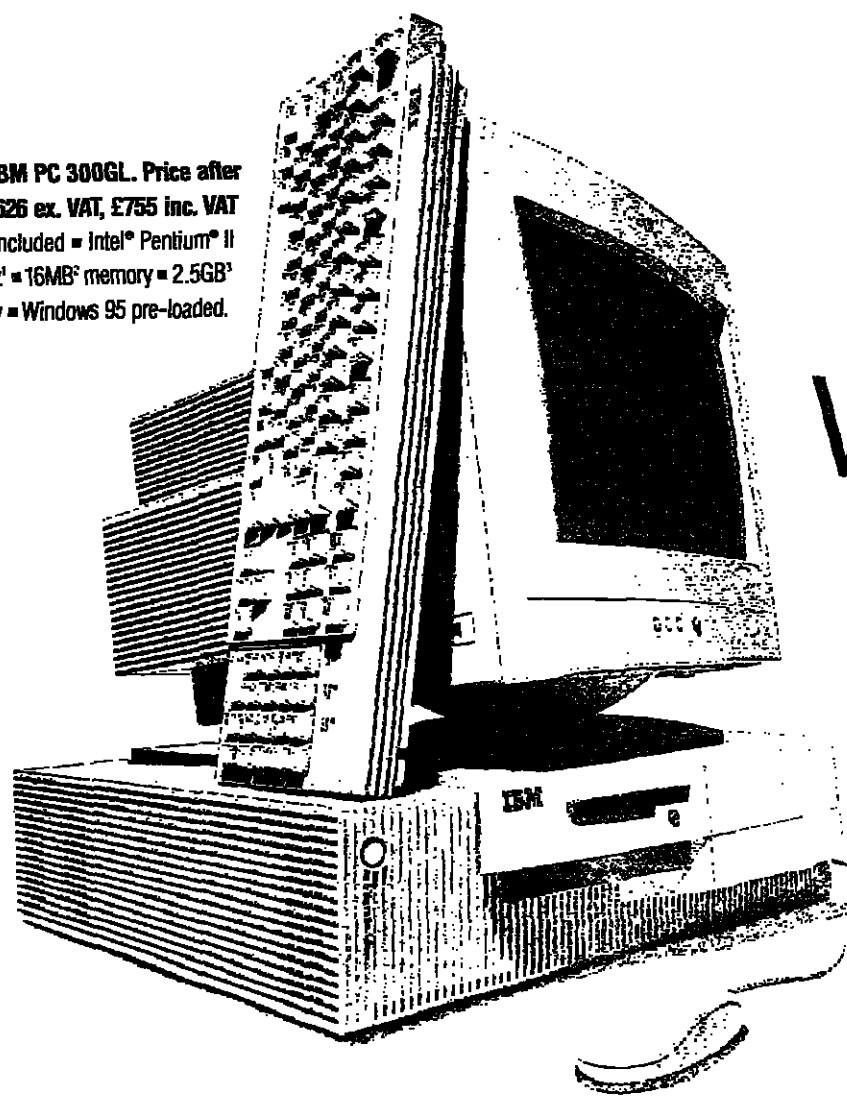
The pro-Peking lobby has developed something close to an obsession about getting rid of his deputy, Anson Chan, the head of the civil service, an old-school bureaucrat with popularity ratings consistently far higher than those of Mr Tung.

The chief executive and Anson Chan claim to be working amicably together but in reality their relationship is fraught. Mr Tung is loath to allow the highly competent Mrs Chan to take charge of the crises, fearing that she will overshadow him. She is aware of this sensitivity and, until recently, has kept well in the background. Now she is becoming more assertive.

Paralysed by the infighting, Mr Tung is seen as increasingly ineffective. His only consistent supporters are the leaders in Peking, who spare no opportunity to lavish praise on him. It is a sign of their detachment from Hong Kong reality that they have no idea how counterproductive their plaudits are.

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Scavenging Palestinian boys and the sparsely tenanted Nativity Hotel (left) near Bethlehem mirror the economic failure of the occupied territories since Oslo David Silver

Israelis check a hotelier's dream

GUESTS DO not always find it easy to get to the Nativity Hotel in Beit Jallah near Bethlehem. Saliba Tareh, 60, the Palestinian owner, says that last year 13 busloads of pilgrims from Italy, led by an archbishop, had to fall to their knees to pray before they were allowed to proceed past the Israeli checkpoint on the road from Jerusalem.

Almost five years ago, Mr Tareh, a retired insurance agent, and his family decided to build the Nativity Hotel at a cost of \$3m (£1.8m) in the first flush of enthusiasm after the signing of the Oslo Accords between Israel and the Palestinians in 1993. "I thought peace was coming," said Mr Tareh. "Originally, I was going to build a commercial centre. After the Israelis signed with the Palestinians I decided to open a hotel instead."

It is a decision he has had

BY PATRICK COCKBURN
in Bethlehem

time to regret. Just at the moment, the Nativity Hotel – a pleasant airy building with 90 rooms – has only 20 guests, who are paying less than \$35 a night. It has seldom been more than 20 per cent full since Yasser Arafat officially opened it in April 1996. A photograph on the wall shows a happy-looking Mr Tareh standing beside the Palestinian leader with a knife in his hand as he cuts a cake.

The fate of the hotel mirrors the economic failure of Oslo. Palestinian living standards have fallen by between one-quarter and one-third since it was agreed. Salem Ajluni, a United Nations economist in Gaza, says: "There has been a 25-30 per cent decline in Palestinian per capita GNP [gross national product] since 1992."

The European Commission gives a higher figure of a 35 per cent drop.

In both cases, the reason for the decline is given as the division of the areas in which 2.5 million Palestinians live in Gaza and the West Bank into economic islands. From 1993, it became difficult for Palestinians to move in and out of Gaza or Jerusalem. "The closure policy was institutionalised and expanded to include Jerusalem in that year," Mr Ajluni said.

Fixed Israeli checkpoints were put on the roads. There is one on the road between Jerusalem and Bethlehem, opposite the new Jewish settlement at Har Homa. To travel to Jerusalem to meet travel agents to try to bring guests to his hotel, Mr Tareh, a distinguished looking grey haired man, must first get a permit to enter Jerusalem and is not al-

lowed to bring his car. "Do I look like a terrorist?" he asks. "Am I likely to bring in a bomb?"

But it is Israeli checkpoints, like the one on the Bethlehem road, that form an obstacle course which stifles Palestinian commercial life, ensuring that Mr Arafat's Palestinian Authority (PA) does not become a single economic entity. "They continue to be run like roadblocks in the days of the Ottoman empire," writes Arie Caspi in the *Haaretz* newspaper. "Any reserve sergeant stationed at a West Bank or Gaza roadblock can cause the PA damage amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars."

The biggest loss for the Palestinians is that they are prevented from going to work in Israel on a regular basis. This in turn means that they are less attractive to an Israeli employer who does not know if his

workforce will be able to get to work through the checkpoints. The number of Palestinians working in Israel has fallen by two-thirds since 1993.

The same fragmentation of their economy hits Palestinian farmers in Gaza growing flowers or fruit. In 1996, farmers there were feeding their donkeys on carnations, which they could not export because of an Israeli closure. These days they are shifting back to growing potatoes.

Mr Tareh's hotel was largely financed by his relatives. Greek Orthodox Christians from Beit Jallah, who emigrated to Chile, Peru and the United States. Overall, however, foreign investment in the occupied territories has dried up since 1997, because the movement of people and goods is too vulnerable to Israeli restrictions.

Ironically, on the same day

as Mr Tareh was explaining his problems in the empty lobby of his hotel, the Israeli cabinet put out a self-congratulatory statement saying that the Palestinian economy had expanded since Oslo. Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, said that "if there has been a pattern of positive development in the Palestinian economy, this is purely as a result of Israeli policy". He attacked the "centralist economic policy of the Palestinian Authority" for slowing growth.

Foreign economists are mystified about the source of Mr Netanyahu's information and nothing could be less "centralist" than the isolated Palestinian enclaves ruled by Mr Arafat. In the meantime, Mr Tareh does not intend to give up. Looking none too hopeful, he said: "My only alternative is to close and I won't do that."

Daughter rejects verdict on Abiola

DESPITE an international all-clear regarding the death of Nigeria's leading political prisoner, many in the opposition remain unconvinced.

A team of foreign doctors found that Moshood Abiola, presumed winner of the 1993 presidential elections, died of natural causes. But his daughter, Hafsat, 23, insisted the death was suspicious. Ms Abiola, who lives in the US, said: "The military conveniently took him out."

More evidence emerged yesterday to confirm suggestions that Abiola was dangerously ill. The Lagos-based *Guardian* said the government radiologist wrote a report in 1994 saying his heart was dangerously enlarged. The government had contemplated allowing him abroad for treatment. According to the *Guardian*, Sani Abacha, the former Nigerian dictator, who died last month, initially approved a recommendation that Abiola should be sent abroad, but later changed his mind.

The authorities have tried to send signals of conciliation since Abacha's death, including the release of dozens of political prisoners. Before his death, it was reported that Abiola was about to be released. But opposition activists are still deeply sceptical about the intentions of General Abdulsalam Abubakar, Abacha's successor as military leader.

The timetable for a return to civilian rule, which has constantly slipped in recent years, is as unclear as ever. Even under Abacha, the handover was theoretically due in October.

BY PATRICK GOODEN

ber. But the Lagos-based *This Day* newspaper said the handover might be put back to the end of March.

A prominent opposition group has threatened to boycott the official plans for a transition to democracy, which are expected to be announced this week, perhaps today. The Joint Action Committee on Nigeria called for a government of national unity, as the only way to heal the country's wounds. The group's leader, a Lagos lawyer, Gani Fawehinmi, said: "We want a sense of national well-being."

The committee has called for a national conference to discuss ways in which Nigeria's southerners are given a role in government of the country. Dozens have died in riots following the death of Abiola, a Yoruba southerner.

The protests were as ethnic as they were political: many of those who were attacked were from the north. Observers fear that north-south splits within the country could weaken Nigeria, with potentially disastrous consequences.

Supporters of Abiola have been deeply critical of some of the comments from abroad.

The UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, has been criticised for making statements "with no foundation in truth".

Mr Annan had suggested that Abiola was ready to give up his claim to be president in return for his liberty. Abiola's supporters deny that he was ready to compromise in this way.



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صوتنا من الداخل



French Foreign Legion pioneers in yesterday's Bastille Day parade in Paris

AP/Michel Euler

France has recaptured its pride, says Chirac

FRANCE "rediscovered its soul" when it won the World Cup, President Chirac said yesterday. In his traditional message to mark the French national day, Mr Chirac paid tribute to the multi-racial French football team - "tricolore and multi-colore" - which had "demonstrated solidarity and togetherness".

Asked to explain the extraordinary scenes of joy which followed the victory, he said: "Every people feels the need to rediscover itself, to rediscover itself through an idea which makes it proud of itself."

The country's delight at winning the World Cup with such an ethnically diverse team "showed that France has a soul or, more precisely, that it

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

felt the need to re-find its soul. I hope that, in the days that follow, we can preserve something of this national feeling".

Earlier, the French coach, Aimé Jacquet was made a knight of the Légion d'Honneur, France's highest civil award, as part of the President's honours list to mark Bastille Day.

Mr Chirac said that Jacquet, who retires this week, "represented all that was best in the French: serious, determined, human, approachable, understanding, tolerant but firm".

The national holiday was almost an anti-climax this year: an opportunity for the country to catch its breath after two

days of wild rejoicing. A somewhat larger crowd than usual assembled on the Champs-Élysées to watch the traditional military parade. The numbers were estimated at 150,000, perhaps 10 per cent of the vast crowd which greeted the World Cup winners the day before. The airborne part of the ceremony included, for the first time, an RAF flypast by three Tornado F3s from the European air group.

In the remainder of his television interview at the Elysées Palace, Mr Chirac took a conciliatory line towards the Socialist-led government with which he has cohabited for just over a year. He praised the Prime Minister Lionel Jospin's contribution to the French economic recovery but said much

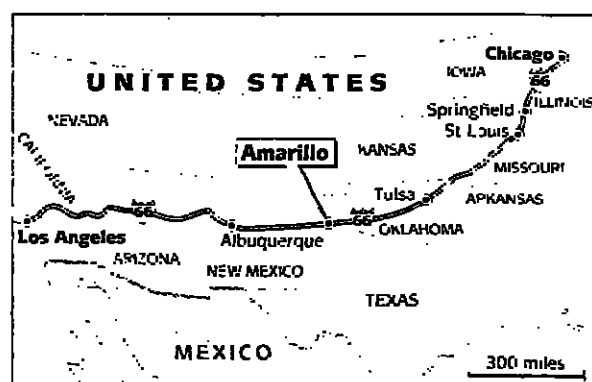
of the credit should also go to the reforms and budget-cutting efforts of the two previous centre-right governments. Despite being written off as a lame-duck, Mr Chirac's popularity figures (and Mr Jospin's) have been wafted to new heights by the economic upturn and the country's footballing success. The President's approval rating is 68 per cent, its highest ever. Mr Jospin's is 70 per cent.

Mr Chirac was asked whether France should avoid political double-acts in the future, by reducing the presidential term from seven years to five, the life of the parliament. He said he was opposed to an idea which would, in effect, give France an American presidential system and allow the President too much power.

Fewer kicks on Route 66

AMERICAN TIMES

AMARILLO



TONY CHRISTIE immortalised this small Texas Panhandle town in 1971 with the song "Is This the Way to Amarillo?" It was the only thing I knew about the place until I visited it last week, and it seemed an odd title. After all, the town is served by two enormous interstate highways, both adequately signposted.

But one can see how he might have missed his exit. Amarillo lies on the southeastern edge of the High Plains, a place of humbling wide open spaces with no landmarks that man has not made himself. The Spanish settlers feared losing their way here and dug stakes into the ground to aid their navigation, so the area became known as the Llanos Estacados, or Staked Plains.

Sitting in the middle of all this nothing, Amarillo is an odd place. It used to be the world's largest producer of helium, the stuff you put in balloons and inhale to make your voice go funny. It also has a very large plutonium facility just outside town. The local airport has what is intended to be a soothing exhibition, reassuring casual travellers that plutonium is far less dangerous than many other everyday substances, like, oh, cyanide, botulism and nerve gas.

Amarillo was once a key stop-off on America's favourite highway, what the writer John Steinbeck called the Mother Road, Route 66. It swept all the way from Chicago to Los Angeles, taking in 2,300 miles of the United States.

This was more than a road, it was a mythic experience, the Main Street of America. It had a song named after it in 1946, later covered by the Rolling Stones among others, which incarnated a young nation's dreams of escape. Alongside it flourished the great roadside vernacular architecture of America on the move, the gas stations and diners which celebrated travel in their tacky neon splendour, their Deco flourishes and brazen simplicity.

The America of Route 66 -

the song and the road - seems a long way past. It was a time when the car was the best way to cross the nation, taking between four and eight days, when now an aircraft will do the distance in just a few hours. When it opened in 1938 the road was a revolution, creating new vistas for commerce and tourists, but also for Steinbeck's poor farmers fleeing the Oklahoma dust bowl. It ranked alongside the Oregon trail as one of America's great paths of discovery.

Yet its life was to be short. Its nemesis came in the form of Nazi Germany. Dwight Eisenhower returned from Europe after the war greatly impressed by the autobahns, and planned a new system of divided, multi-lane highways that would better serve the military and the country. By 1970 most of Route 66 had

been replaced, and in 1984 the last section was pensioned off.

In Amarillo, they have maintained a little bit, along the city's Sixth Street. Once this was a wild place, where houses of ill-repute stood and where an over-eager restaurateur publicised his wares by hurling live chickens off his roof. Now there are "antique" shops, most selling mementoes of the Fifties and Sixties - copies of president-elect Kennedy's Time cover issue, Frank Sinatra film posters, that sort of thing. Although it is a bit twee, there are plenty of normal shops as well as the tourist traps. There are some pleasant little restaurants where you can sit outside and eat barbecue beef sandwiches with chips that recognisably came from a potato, and recently. It is a down-home place where everything

seems very much in order. You can still believe you are on Main Street, USA.

Walk off Sixth Street and the soothing air of normality is maintained. There are tidy streets of suburban houses, each with neatly mown if crispy lawns (there is a hosepipe ban) and, because I was there on 4 July, American flags.

The only sound comes from the grasshoppers, as loud as old-fashioned football rattles. There is a local fad for placing road signs in the front garden with surreal personalised messages. "Art, Life of Civilization," says one. "Dirty Fighter," says another. And my favourite: "I am my own best friend." I couldn't work out if that one was boasting or complaining.

This is a reminder of the way that communities used to work in the US. Route 66 was designed to wrap small towns and isolated cities into a network that connected the nation, binding the rural corners of Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas to the metropolises of the Mid West and the Pacific seaboard.

Now, the new interstate highways pass them by again. In Amarillo it has spawned acres of strip malls, junk-food shops and car dealers, tossed around at random as the road zooms into and out of town in a flash. Residents are moving out to smarter new suburban areas. My theory about Tony Christie is that he arrived just after they ripped up Route 66, and simply could not find his way around the new road layout.

Route 66 was a dream. It moved people, where the new roads just transport cars. The architecture they have spawned is mean, poorly constructed, and dreams only of turnover and the quick fix. They have helped to take the spirit out of the cities, throttling them and sucking the life away. In many American towns, it is hard to know where the main street is any more - and if you are there after dark, you are probably in trouble. At least you will not get hit by a chicken, though.

ANDREW MARSHALL

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BUSINESS

Stocks buoyant as inflation figures soothe rate fears

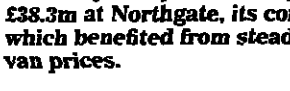
BRIEFING

US banks post record results

US BANKS Merrill Lynch and Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette yesterday posted record second-quarter results but watched their shares slip as they failed to beat Wall Street's expectations by as wide a margin as they have in the recent past. Giant brokerage house Merrill, which earned a record \$545m in the quarter, fell a penny shy of analysts' expectations. DLJ earned \$142.3m in the quarter, up 42 per cent from \$100.2m a year ago. The investment bank beat analysts' expectations by 3 cents, according to research firm First Call. Merrill's 1998 second-quarter results included a \$56m non-cash charge, mostly to amortise its \$5.3bn acquisition of UK portfolio manager Mercury Asset Management.

In a rising overall market, Merrill's stock shed \$2.81 to \$105.125. DLJ slipped \$1.31 to \$61.75 in New York shortly after midday.

Goode Durrant profits up



STRONG GROWTH in its core van hire business helped Goode Durrant, the commercial vehicle rental group, to increase profits and turnover last year.

The company yesterday posted an increase of nearly 20 per cent in pre-tax profit to £29.5m on turnover in continuing operations up 49 per cent to £187.6m. Goode Durrant's performance was

driven by a 30 per cent leap in operating profit to £38.3m at Northgate, its commercial vehicle division, which benefited from steady hire rates and falling new van prices.

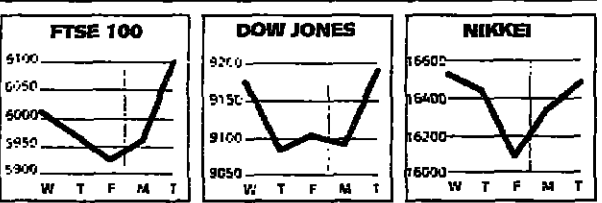
Investment Column, page 23

Council tries to halt bid meeting

HULL CITY COUNCIL yesterday tried to block councillors from meeting LandTel Communications, the US shell company which is attempting to buy a stake in Kingston Communications, the municipally owned telecom operator. The council's town clerk has written to LandTel's chairman, citing corruption laws and warning that an offer to brief councillors on the bid over dinner at a 3-star hotel might be referred to the police.

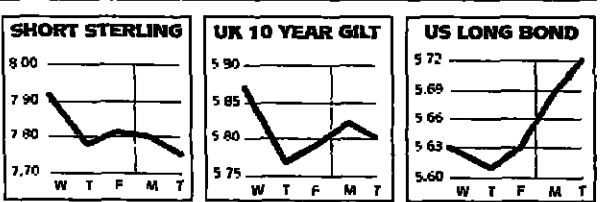
A LandTel spokesman said: "This must be the first time in history that a public offer to invest in a company has run the risk of being referred to the police." The company is planning to hold a press conference in Hull this morning.

STOCK MARKETS



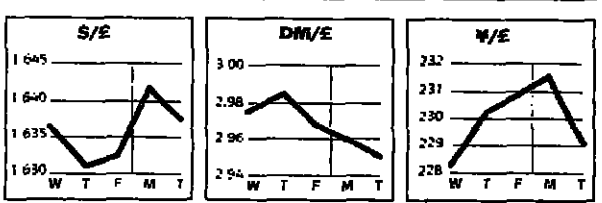
Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk. high	52 wk. low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	6100.20	142.60	2.39	6150.50	4382.80	3.76
FTSE 250	5658.10	18.30	0.33	5970.90	4407.80	3.38
FTSE 350	2931.80	58.20	2.03	2940.10	2141.80	3.65
FTSE All Share	2851.39	50.13	1.79	2872.04	2106.59	3.65
FTSE SmallCap	2575.80	-0.10	0.00	2729.80	2182.10	3.27
FTSE Share	1412.40	0.00	0.00	1517.10	1225.20	3.38
FTSE AIM	1095.10	0.00	0.00	1146.50	965.90	1.19
FTSE EBOC 100	1100.91	11.94	1.10
Dow Jones	9192.25	94.49	1.04	9261.91	6971.32	1.59
Nikkei	16488.91	128.52	0.79	20698.67	14498.21	0.93
Hong Kong	3179.93	79.73	0.98	3680.31	2351.68	5.01
Dax	6095.28	75.80	1.26	6056.09	3487.24	2.65

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	Yr. chg.	1 year	Yr. chg.	10 year	Yr. chg.	Long bond	Yr. chg.
UK	7.75	0.75	7.82	0.37	5.80	-1.30	5.43	-1.61
US	5.63	-0.06	5.81	-0.20	5.49	-0.76	5.72	-0.83
Japan	0.63	0.00	0.66	-0.14	1.76	-0.81	2.29	-0.77
Germany	3.55	0.42	3.81	0.54	4.70	-0.87	5.33	-1.06

CURRENCIES



	at 5pm	Change	Yr. Ago
Dollar	1.6376	-0.37c	1.6865
D-Mark	2.9503	-0.40pt	3.0218
Yen	229.03	-0.25	192.37
Euro	105.50	0.00	105.10

OTHER INDICATORS

	Close	Chg	Yr. Ago
Brent Oil (\$)	11.65	0.24	17.82
Gold (\$)	293.75	2.70	319.95
Silver (\$)	5.33	0.06	4.28

TOURIST RATES

	2.5576	13.31
Australia (\$)	2.5576	13.31
Austria (schillings)	20.06	3.2175
Belgium (francs)	58.97	3.0256
Canada (\$)	2.3594	12.22
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8347	290.16
Denmark (krone)	10.94	5.9587
Finland (markka)	8.7352	2.6614
France (francs)	9.5825	241.85
Germany (marks)	2.8661	9.4325
Greece (drachma)	473.02	12.83
Hong Kong (\$)	12.29	2.4192
Ireland (pounds)	1.1325	60.85
India (rupees)	64.00	424.142
Israel (shekels)	5.5326	1.5974
Italy (lira)	2830	...
Japan (yen)	226.52	...
Malaysia (ringgits)	5.5573	...
Malta (lira)	0.6211	...

THE BLUE-CHIP FTSE 100

index soared by more than 140 points yesterday to close above 6,100, following the publication of lower-than-expected inflation figures and the Government's comprehensive spending review.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) said both the headline and underlying rates of inflation fell by 0.1 per cent in June, the first monthly fall since January. The year-on-year headline and underlying inflation rates are now at their lowest level since March, and economists are predicting further falls in inflation.

BY LEA PATERSON

Geoffrey Dicks, of Greenwich NatWest, called the figures "very good news" and said that the drop in the underlying inflation rate in June "more than made up for last month's adverse move".

The year-on-year underlying inflation rate was down from 3.2 per cent in May to 2.8 per cent in June. It is now just 0.3 per cent above the Bank of England's inflation target, and some economists were yesterday predicting inflation would be back on target level by the autumn. The year-on-year

headline rate of inflation was 3.7

per cent in June, down from 4.2 per cent in May.

Some observers in the City said the fall in inflation appeared to vindicate the decision by the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to keep rates on hold last week. Paul Mortimer-Lee at Paribas was among those who speculated that the MPC had a good idea of the inflation picture when it met last week.

Mr Mortimer-Lee said: "The MPC probably had a good sniff of these figures: the better numbers may have encouraged them to stay their hand for

presentational reasons."

The ONS denied that it had given the MPC advance warning of the inflation figures. However, a spokesman said that the ONS did give both Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, prior notice of the figures six days before official publication.

Mr George is a member of the MPC, and has the casting vote if the committee is split down the middle on its rate decision.

Shares rose and the pound fell as City fears of a rate rise receded. The FTSE 100 closed

the day up 142 points at 6,100.2,

and gained 35 points immediately following announcement of details of the comprehensive spending review. Sterling finished the day down half a penny at DM2.945.

Despite the good news on the inflation front, economists warned that it would be premature to rule out further rate rises altogether.

Jonathan Loynes from HSBC Markets was among those who noted that the June inflation figures were flattered by seasonal factors. He said: "Part of the undershoot of our forecast was due to a sharper

than expected drop in seasonal

food price inflation after the jump in May."

Some in the City highlighted the stubborn price inflation in the services sector, currently running at 3.2 per cent. "We need to see more convincing signs of a slowdown in activity in services before inflation starts to cool off," Mr Loynes said.

Eric Fishwick of Nikko Europe said that the inflation figures were of less relevance to the interest-rate outlook than the next batch of average earnings figures, due to be released today.



A Cable and Wireless deal with MCI is thought to include the purchase of MCI's Internet retail customer base

C&W poised for \$2bn Internet buy

CABLE & WIRELESS, the telecoms

giant, is close to taking full control of the Internet business which have been put up for sale by MCI, the US group.

According to reports from the US, C&W is close to buying MCI's Internet operations for between \$1.5bn and \$2bn. The deal extends the agreement signed between the companies in May, when MCI sold its Internet backbone - the physical infrastructure on which traffic runs - and a customer base of 1,300 Internet service providers to C&W for \$625m (£380m).

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

C&W is now also believed to be buying MCI's retail customer base - the large companies who have hired the US group to manage their internet traffic.

MCI had hoped that the partial sale to C&W would be enough to persuade European Union authorities to clear its \$370m merger with WorldCom, the US telecom giant. However, the EU subsequently insisted that MCI sell its entire Internet business.

Regulators were concerned that the merger with WorldCom - which is already a market leader in the Internet business through its UUNET subsidiary - would give the enlarged company a near-stranglehold on the world's Internet traffic.

Last week the EU formally cleared the merger after MCI agreed to sell its entire Internet division. The new deal gives C&W a valuable foothold in the US telecoms market. Dick Brown, the chief executive, believes that Internet traffic will grow

rapidly as data and eventually voice telephony move to using Internet-based standards.

However, C&W has been forced to pay up to clinch the deal. While the original sale was priced at three times revenues, the new deal values the operations at a multiple of four to five.

C&W is believed to have faced hefty competition from British Telecom and AT&T for the business. In June, the company filed a lawsuit against MCI to ensure that it was given first refusal on any Internet businesses MCI decided to sell.

BA warns of blocking tactics New reverse at Car Group

THE CHAIRMAN of British Airways,

Sir Colin Marshall, yesterday warned shareholders to prepare for a bumpy ride between now and the autumn as rival airlines try to block its alliance with American Airlines. Sir Colin told the company's annual meeting: "We can be sure of a tense and frenetic period in which rival forces will be mobilised against us."

The BA-AA alliance has received conditional approval from the European Commission and the UK Government, and is due to be ruled on by the US Department of Transportation in September.

Sir Colin said he was "hope-

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

ful" of a decision by then, adding that "the end is in sight to a frustrating period when we were blocked in Brussels, while competitors' transatlantic alliances were allowed to go ahead and - quite literally - gang up on us".

The BA chairman repeated BA's view that the conditions imposed on the alliance by the EU Competition Commission, Karel Van Miert, were "too severe". Mr Van Miert has said the two carriers must surrender 267 take-off and landing slots at Heathrow and Gatwick to rival carriers for free.

He has also insisted that BA and AA reduce their services on key transatlantic routes between London and Chicago, Dallas and Miami by more than half for a six-month period.

The Commission is expected to make its formal recommendations on the alliance in early autumn. But rival carriers, led by Virgin Atlantic and Delta of the US, have served notice that they will fight hard to ensure the conditions are beefed up.

Sir Colin would not confirm that Airbus had beaten Boeing to a £2bn order for up to 100 aircraft for BA's regional European routes. But he said the competition was nearing its end.

CAR GROUP, the used car supermarket business which issued a dire profits warning a month ago, reversed further yesterday after a trading update failed to appease investors.

The company's shares fell another 7p to 54.5p after a statement that had been intended to calm market fears.

"Whilst the market for used car sales continues to be difficult, vehicle sales over the last four weeks have been running at about 750 per week," the company said. It repeated its June warning that its results for the year to August will be "substantially affected" by lower car sales in the next six weeks.

BY NIGEL COPE Associate City Editor

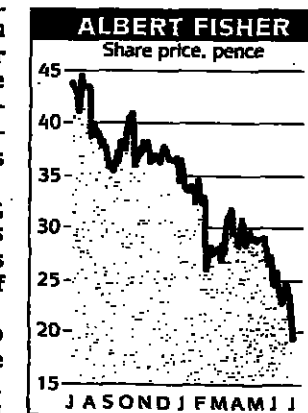
The company said its board was to meet shortly to consider the results of its review, and would make a fuller statement to the London Stock Exchange next week. The shares were priced at 138p when the company came to the market less than two years ago.

Car Group's shares have been in the grip of a bear raid by Simon Cawkwell, the investor known in the market as "Evil Knave". He sold 20,000 shares at 55p and 52p yesterday and predicted that the company's August trading update would be

negative. "He is entitled to his opinion," said Peter Floyd, Car Group finance director.

In June, Car Group shares fell by 44 per cent after it said its sales had been hit by depressed demand in the used car market which had seen prices on some models drop by 10 per cent between April and June. Warning of "recessionary conditions" in some parts of the country, Car Group said the strong pound had had a significant impact on demand in the manufacturing heartlands of the country.

Before yesterday analysts were forecasting profits of £4.5m to £5m this year.



AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

FOOTSE surged 142 points to 6,100.2, its biggest gain this year. It is only 3.6 below its peak, hit in April. Weaker inflation numbers and more evidence of deteriorating retail sales fuelled hopes interest rates have peaked. New York's early strength as well as the more encouraging outlook for Japan and Russia also contributed to the euphoria. Banks led the charge. Expectations of bumper profits later this month and revived takeover talk pushed banking shares, weak recently, up nearly 5 per cent.

Derek Pain, page 23

NEW YORK

US stocks rose, buoyed by a round of corporate results which topped analysts' expectations. The Dow rose 107.36 points, or 1.2 per cent, to 9203.67 in midday trading, led by JP Morgan. The investment bank rose 2-3/4 after reporting profits well ahead of analysts' forecasts. The Standard & Poor's index gained 9.72 points to 1174.91, while the Nasdaq index climbed for a fifth day running, putting on 4.16 points to 1969.69. A weaker-than-expected consumer price figure for June helped to boost stocks.

TOKYO

THE Japanese stock market rose for a second day after a senior government adviser called for 6 trillion yen (\$42.4bn) in tax cuts to revive the country's ailing economy. The Nikkei index rose 128.52 points to 16,488.91 while the broader Topix index gained 10.21 points to 1266.65. The two indexes were boosted by comments from Hiroshi Kato, the head of the government's tax reform panel, who said that Japan needs 4 trillion yen in income tax cuts and 2 trillion yen in corporate tax cuts.

INDONESIA

JAKARTA's stock exchange ended higher yesterday as the Indonesian rupiah rose on news that the IMF would vote today on a \$1bn rescue package. The composite index closed up 4.2 points at 463.87, led by rises in state miner Aneka Tambang and in a number of second liners. The IMF also said that it expected a further \$4.6bn from international donors to arrive soon. The news sent the rupiah to 14,550 to the dollar, up from the 15,300 reached in late Monday trading.

GERMANY

THE GERMAN benchmark DAX Xetra index yesterday rose to a record for a second consecutive day, with banking stocks among the highest risers following the approval of an IMF rescue package for the troubled Russia economy. The index closed up 79.32 points, or 1.32 per cent, to an all-time high of 6,102.62, its biggest one-day jump for two and a half weeks. Russia is one of Germany's largest trading partners and its latest woes have depressed the German mark and the equity market.

Tide finally turns for public sector

PREDICTING THE future is always a mug's game. The best laid plans invariably go wrong. The Chancellor looks destined to find this out the hard way, having yesterday tied himself into grandiose long-term spending proposals which, in their time frame, detail and rhetoric, seem strangely reminiscent of the early Soviet Five Year Plans.

The problem is that having promised education and the National Health Service their extra 5 per cent a year, having announced "the largest hospital building programme in NHS history", having earmarked £3.6bn to funding estate improvements, having pledged an extra £1bn for science, once committed to a £44m rise in spending on the World Service, and so on and so forth, it's very hard to go back on it all when economic conditions cease to justify such largesse.

To be fair, this was what the Government was elected to do, and at present, the state of the economy and the public finances seem just about able to support the programme. Furthermore, the Government may actually be introducing a much needed element of stability into the economy by breaking with the annual spending round



OUTLOOK

and the uncertainty that always surrounded it. Unfortunately, the plans leave virtually no room for error: the prospect of the Chancellor coming in on-budget three years hence therefore seems about as likely as a month of Sundays. The only question is how much off it we'll be.

The Government has failed to find any savings at all in the social security budget, despite the mileage Labour made out of this issue ahead of the election. And in order to get the figures to add up, it has been forced to resort both to selling off assets and to a degree of creative accounting. Reduced debt interest payments have been treated as extra spending money.

All that said, the overall balance of the package seems reasonable enough. Provided the Government can, as it promises, confine the extra spending largely to capital investment, and it doesn't all get eaten up in extra public sector pay and employment, then nobody in the City is going to complain too much about the way the money is being thrown around.

None the less, no one should underestimate the significance of what was announced yesterday. After 19 years of siege, of attempting to hold back or reduce government spending, the public sector has finally been judged as something worth investing in once more. This is quite a change and we know not yet where it will lead us.

Muddle over savings reforms

GOVERNMENT POLICY on savings is in a mess. The savings industry knows it better than anyone. Labour came to power filled with good intentions, determined to provide the sort of incentives necessary to make the less well-off save more

for old age, unemployment and ill-health, but everything it does seems to be gently foundering in a sea of contradictions.

The trouble is that life companies are so much on the back foot these days, so discredited by the pensions mis-selling scandal, such an object of public contempt, that they seem powerless to warn the Government of the traps that lie ahead: nobody wants to listen to them.

The biggest problem is this. The Government plans shortly to introduce a new tax-efficient savings plan, the Individual Savings Account, to replace Tessa and Peps, which it rightly sees as too skewed towards middle class savers, those that don't need to be given a tax incentive to save.

Fair enough, but when combined with the abolition of tax credits on dividends, the effect is substantially to reduce the tax break compared to these older established products. It may be that the middle classes don't need tax breaks to save, but it is not clear the ISA is sufficient an advance on what went before in terms of access and flexibility to attract the lower paid either.

ISAs would in any case become an irrelevance if the Government in-

troduces compulsion into its new stakeholder pension. After repeated delays, the Government's pension proposals are finally due to be wheeled into the cold light of day this autumn. The industry is deeply divided over the idea of compulsion, the prospect of all that extra business having to be weighed against the realisation that the Government won't allow life companies to charge more than a pittance for it. One thing is certain, however. Compulsion will kill the rest of the savings industry stone dead, ISAs along with it.

The danger with the stakeholder pension has always been that people will regard it both as a substitute for other forms of savings and in itself a sufficient safety net for old age, obviating the need for any additional saving. That's been the experience in Australia where the rest of the savings industry has died since compulsory saving for pensions was introduced.

The painful truth is that the low-paid find it difficult to save, period. It may be that the Government will improve the situation a little with a compulsory stakeholder pension, but Peter Lilley's radical plan to privatise the state pension and switch

it to a fully funded basis, so derided by Labour in opposition, still looks the better long-term bet.

Albert Fisher's list of excuses

IT IS UNUSUAL for a company to announce a "fundamental strategic and financial review" in response to what are described as short-term and presumably therefore temporary setbacks. But the food group Albert Fisher long since ceased to be the usual sort of company.

The profit warnings have come thick and fast over the years while the excuses have grown as exotic as the sources it serves up with its succulent seafood dishes. Previous explanations have included frozen cockle beds and lettuce gluts. This time around the culprits are the weather and the European Union, which have left Albert Fisher short on peas and long on prawns. The English summer has not helped, creating a veritable mountain of unsold salad, while El Nino is probably in the mix somewhere.

The upshot is that that the recovery which was promised as re-

cently as April has disappeared like chicken nuggets at a children's party. The management cannot even tell us what trading will be like this month let alone next.

The raw prawns in all this have been shareholders who have watched the share price underperform the market by 85 per cent since Stephen Walls took the helm six years ago. Mr Walls, who still managed to pocket £350,000 last year for his troubles, has mercifully agreed to do the decent thing and pack his bags.

But it is not apparent that the remaining management can pull the fat out of the fire. The man from Mars, Neil England, has been there 18 months and has nothing to show but a series of phantom deals to go with the phantom profits - like the failed offer from the US food group Chiquita and the buyout of the fish business which never materialised.

Hence the fundamental review. One option would be to dispose of the fresh produce arm, which operates in a fragmented market where margins are notoriously thin, and concentrate on food processing. That may be the solution the independent consultants and Lazard's come up with but not before their fees have nibbled a bit more off the shrinking dividend.

News Analysis: Dog food is the latest bone of contention between the supermarkets and high-priced brands

Asda bites back in prices battle

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

ASDA HAS fired another shot in the supermarket battle against higher-priced consumer brands with plans to cut the price of a premium-priced pet food and launch its own lower-priced alternative, after being refused supply by the manufacturer.

Asda has obtained a limited supply of Eukanuba dog food from the European grey market and will start selling the bags in 15 stores at up to 15 per cent off on Thursday. The supermarket group thinks its initial stock will last about a week but expects subsequent supplies to be blocked by the manufacturer, which prefers to sell its product through veterinary surgeries and specialist pet shops.

"We sent four letters to Iams UK [the manufacturer] seeking supplies but we never heard back," Asda said. "It is pretty clear that they don't want to supply us. They obviously don't want their products sold in a supermarket environment."

Asda's latest assault on higher prices comes just two days ahead of a key European court ruling, which will determine whether UK supermarkets can source higher-value brands from markets outside the European Union.

The ruling relates to a dispute between the Austrian sunglasses brand Silhouette and the retailer Hartauer. Hartauer bought sunglasses from a Bulgarian distributor to sell at a discount, but the European Court's advocate general said a 1998 European trademark directive meant that any trademark owner within the EU can prevent its products from being imported into EU countries without its consent.

The European Court is expected to adopt the advocate general's opinion in its ruling on Thursday. Asda said: "If that happens it will make it very difficult for UK supermarkets to obtain grey market supplies from outside the EU."

Asda says the US is the biggest source of grey market products while Tesco has previously secured supplies of Levi's jeans from Mexico, against the manufacturer's wishes.

Branded goods find their way on to the grey market via a variety of sources. Sometimes they come from the manufacturers themselves, which are keen to sell end-of-line stock or ranges which have not sold well. Other sources include retailers, which may deliberately over-order from manufacturers and then sell surplus



COMPARING THE COSTS

	Asda	Specialist pet shop
Eukanuba (3kg)		
Junior	£9.39	£10.99
Puppy	£9.89	£10.99
Regular	£8.79	£9.79
	Tesco	High Street
Levi 501s	£30	£49
Adidas 3 stripe youth T-shirt	£11	£15.99
Nike mens' Trimax Trainers	£45	£79.99
Ralph Lauren chino shirt	£35	£75
England Umbro Football shirt	£33	£45



Asda is fighting over the price of gourmet dog food (top left). Meanwhile Tesco finds cut-price supplies of brands such as (left to right) Adidas, Calvin Klein and Tommy Hilfiger

stock on to the grey market for a quick profit. Licensed factories may also produce more of the branded goods than their licence stipulates and sell the rest on.

Catrin Turner, head of intellectual property at the litigation experts Davies Arnold Cooper, warned that a ban on grey market imports would "place a fence around Europe and have a massive impact on both retailers and consumers". She said retailers that kept pushing on this issue would face legal action from brand owners.

Asda has led campaigns against price maintenance of

books and over-the-counter medicines. Meanwhile Tesco has consistently used the grey market to gain cut-price supplies of brands such as Tommy Hilfiger, Nike, Levi's, Adidas and Calvin Klein, after being denied stock from the manufacturer.

Asda will be selling Eukanuba dog food at prices up to £1.60 lower than those typically charged by specialist pet shops. It has also launched its own gourmet brand called Asda Hero Nutrition Plan, at prices it claims are up to 30 per cent cheaper than rivals. "We are the dog owner's best friend," says

Richard Baker, Asda's deputy trading director. The pricing and supply policies of branded goods companies are becoming an increasingly contentious issue, which has attracted the attention of the UK competition authorities as well as the consumer affairs minister, Nigel Griffiths.

Retail price maintenance is illegal, the only exemption being over-the-counter medicines and vitamins. However, this has been referred to the Restrictive Practices Court by the Office of Fair Trading and the exemption may be removed.

But though recommended retail prices are against the law, restricting supply is not. Branded goods companies like Levi's, Nike and Tommy Hilfiger refuse to supply supermarket chains, claiming they are unsuitable environments for their products and that the staff lack the specialist knowledge required.

But though the government and consumer groups frequently lambast manufacturers for high prices, it still happens all the time. Superdrug lost a famous battle when perfume manufacturers protested to the Office of Fair Trading that the

chain was selling their fragrances at lower prices. They complained that Superdrug was not a suitable environment in which to sell their products and won.

The OFT recently ordered Le Coq Sportif to stop fixing the price of its £40 football shirts but the manufacturer was unrepentant: "We broke the law, but commercially, I don't see anything wrong in charging a proper price for a highly sought-after brand name," the company said.

When Tesco started stocking cut-price Tommy Hilfiger clothing, the American company hit

back with a lawsuit alleging the goods were counterfeit. Tesco maintains that the goods were genuine.

Tesco makes the point that the branded goods companies are inconsistent in their supply criteria. "You can buy Levi's and Nikes through direct mail catalogues and over the Internet. Where is the specialist advice there? All we want is a level playing field."

Consumer groups wonder where the supermarket groups might turn next. Compact discs would seem an obvious candidate, they say, and a popular choice.

IN BRIEF

US shows signs of slowdown

THE US economy showed signs of slowing in June as retail sales decelerated markedly, growing a bare 0.1 per cent compared with an advance of 1.2 per cent in May, and high street sales actually fell.

Inflation also slowed further in June, with the consumer price index rising by only 0.1 per cent. Inflation ran an annual rate of 1.4 per cent in the first half. Falling energy costs have helped to keep prices down, as have economic and currency weaknesses in Asia. This externally-induced deflation is one factor helping to keep the US economy on its current path of high growth and low inflation.

Economists expect growth to slow from 5.4 per cent in the first quarter to a rate around 2 per cent in the second half of the year.

£30m Asian loan

THE European Investment Bank will lend 45m ecu (£30m) to Indonesia to upgrade and extend the water supply system in east Jakarta, the European Union said. The loan covers around 21 per cent of the cost of the five-year project undertaken by PT Kekar Thames Airindo in a joint venture with Thames Water.

Colt network

COLT TELECOM said it has completed its initial network and is ready to launch its commercial service in Brussels, Belgium. The initial 16 route kilometres of digital fibre-optic network covers the commercial, financial and administrative areas. Colt said it plans to at least double the size of its Brussels network before the end of this year.

Cendant errors

CENDANT, the US group that has agreed to buy RAC Motoring Services for £737m (£450m), cut its 1997 earnings by twice as much as expected after revealing that accounting irregularities at its CUC International unit ran deeper than previously disclosed.

Its stock earlier fell 26 per cent to \$14, the lowest since December 1994, after a delayed opening on the New York Stock Exchange. The company said an audit found errors "with an intent to deceive" at CUC that included "fictitious revenues", false coding to inflate revenue and profit and delayed recognition of refunds.

Scottish bond

SCOTTISH LIFE yesterday launched a limited issue high-income bond combining a fixed annual income of 9 per cent net of tax for up to five years, with full return of capital if in the next five years the London and Zurich stock indices rise by less than 40 per cent of the past 10 years' average, and some capital growth if growth is over half the 10-year average. It avoids the new Treasury ban on the sale of multi-index bonds, which guarantee full capital return if a number of indices do not fall.

Insurers 'load charges' on pension top-up schemes

BY ANDREW VERITY

SOME OF Britain's biggest insurers are loading heavy charges on pension top-up schemes they offer to companies, in some cases reducing investment returns to almost nothing, it emerged yesterday. A survey of top-up schemes run by employers showed some insurance companies charge up to 9 per cent a year to manage them - enough to wipe out

most or all of the interest earned on the fund.

Among the worst offenders are Norwich Union, Guardian and Legal & General, which charges more than 6 per cent annually for a five-year investment of £25 a month into its with-profits fund.

Royal & Sun Alliance and

Scottish Mutual, owned by Abbey National, charge between 5 and 7 per cent over five years, according to the survey by Watson Wyatt, the pension fund consultancy.

Savers who put in small amounts of money over three years could even find they get less out of some top-up schemes than they have saved - despite good investment returns.

Watson Wyatt yesterday warned trustees of company pension schemes that they must be vigilant when they pick an insurance company to run a top-up scheme.

Andy Parker, principal in financial services, said: "Our findings on charges and performance show that trustees can take nothing for granted and they have an increasingly

difficult task in choosing the most appropriate scheme provider for their members."

Where savers put aside £25 a month for five years, Norwich Union, Professional Life and Guardian all charge enough to wipe out investment gains of up to 8 per cent a year.

In contrast, top-ups run by Clerical Medical or Equitable Life would only reduce invest-

ment returns by less than 2 per cent. On average, charges took 3.9 points off the interest rate earned.

Norwich Union, which manages over £100m of pension top-up money, said it charged less in an alternative scheme designed for short-term savers. And charges had less of an impact when savers put away more than £25 a month.

Watson Wyatt's findings will add fuel to the debate on whether there has been widespread mis-selling of the top-up schemes, known as additional voluntary contributions (AVCs).

While some schemes had heavy charges, Watson Wyatt found that most employers' schemes were much cheaper than personal top-up schemes, known as "free-standing" AVCs.



All UK Stocks, London ETS 100									
Fund	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th
1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th
21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th
31st	32nd	33rd	34th	35th	36th	37th	38th	39th	40th
41st	42nd	43rd	44th	45th	46th	47th	48th	49th	50th
51st	52nd	53rd	54th	55th	56th	57th	58th	59th	60th
61st	62nd	63rd	64th	65th	66th	67th	68th	69th	70th
71st	72nd	73rd	74th	75th	76th	77th	78th	79th	80th
81st	82nd	83rd	84th	85th	86th	87th	88th	89th	90th
91st	92nd	93rd	94th	95th	96th	97th	98th	99th	100th
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121st	122nd	123rd	124th	125th	126th	127th	128th	129th	130th
131st	132nd	133rd	134th	135th	136th	137th	138th	139th	140th
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751st	752nd	753rd	754th	755th	756th	757th	758th	759th	760th
761st	762nd	763rd	764th	765th	766th	767th	768th	769th	770th
771st	772nd	773rd	774th	775th	776th	777th	778th	779th	780th
781st	782nd	783rd	784th	785th	786th	787th	788th	789th	790th
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861st	862nd	863rd	864th	865th	866th	867th	868th	869th	870th
871st	872nd	873rd	874th	875th	876th	877th	878th	879th	880th
881st	882nd	883rd	884th	885th	886th	887th	888th	889th	890th
891st	892nd	893rd	894th	895th	896th	897th	898th	899th	900th
901st	902nd	903rd	904th	905th	906th	907th	908th	909th	910th
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941st	942nd	943rd	944th	945th	946th	947th	948th	949th	950th
951st	952nd	953rd	954th	955th	956th	957th	958th	959th	960th
961st	962nd	963rd	964th	965th	966th	967th	968th	969th	970th
971st	972nd	973rd	974th	975th	976th	977th	978th	979th	980th
981st	982nd	983rd	984th	985th	986th	987th	988th	989th	990th
991st	992nd	993rd	994th	995th	996th	997th	998th	999th	1000th

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SPORT

The 127th Open: Golf's biggest crowdpuller warns Westwood as the two favourites prepare for a major confrontation

Woods is taming the tiger within

BY RICHARD EDMONDSON
at Royal Birkdale

WHEN TIGER Woods came before us yesterday he was dressed predominantly in blue and covered in the ticks of his Nike sponsors. He looked like Einstein's homework.

The plus marks for being the young comet of golf no longer belong to the American, however. That distinction lies with Lee Westwood, who has won seven times in the last nine months and banked more prize-money than any player on the regular tour. He's hot.

The man from Workshop will do well to consider the Woods model, though. When Tiger arrived at Troon 12 months ago he was fresh from an extravagant Masters victory. Club selection seemed unimportant. The more pressing choice appeared to be what vintage he would be pouring into the claret jug on Sunday evening. Then the script deviated.

A round of 64 was surrounded by dirtier scores and the wunderkind became submerged in the pack as he tied for 24th. Woods has won this year but in comparison to the playing monster of his early professional career he has become devalued. In majors, especially, Tiger has been performing more like Eeyore. Or even Pooch.

This was the man trained in the art of mental strategy by his father Earl, a former Green Beret. His fairway behaviour, though, at its worst, is more dunkopf than Schwarzkopf. Clubs are thrown and expletives chase after them.

Woods insists he has benefited from the Troon experience. He has not cut out the less admirable elements of his game. He has just stopped reading about them. "There

was a lot of pressure on me to play well, but I think that's when you live and learn and I learned from lessons last year," he said. "Like forgetting the media. I don't really read articles any more or what's on television. I figured since I've already gone through the experience I don't need another person's perspective on what I've just gone through."

"I shut myself away from that because otherwise you can get hypercritical of yourself. I know a lot of people in the media like to take shots at you for various things, nit-picking things. I am human and you're going to take offence to that because sometimes you don't think you did anything wrong."

The Woods playing technique has also undergone a slight modification and the new model should help him creep under the great gusts that are swirling around Southport this week. "I've changed my preparation a little bit, worked on my swing, tried to get the plane better," he said. "I think overall my game is better and I'm fighting the ball better than I was at this time last year."

"I'm hitting the ball lower than I ever have in my entire life. That's one of the reasons why I've been so consistent this year."

Why I haven't had the really high rounds. This year my bad shots are not that bad. I am not hitting it two fairways over and stuff like that."

His tendency to veer off the main thoroughfare has had a dramatic effect on the shoe bills for the four security personnel who are constantly assigned to Woods following death threats.

It has appeared in the past that it would not take an assassin to wipe the man out. He has seemed on the verge of doing it himself. Now, Woods



Tiger Woods puts in some practice playing out of the rough at Royal Birkdale yesterday as he attempts to improve his below-par season

David Ashdown



Westwood concentrates on a delicate chip shot

says, he is more at peace with himself.

"Sometimes you have got to get it out when you're playing bad," he said. "With that in mind I have become less tough on myself because you're going to go through some dry spells."

Woods and Westwood are the joint favourites to win this week at 11-1. They are also bonded by mutual admiration. "He has had a great run ever since the end of last year," the American says of the recent Loch Lomond victor. "He has

played extremely well and shot some really low scores, which is impressive, and been able to do it consistently. That is when you know the guy is playing really well."

Westwood, at 25, is the brave new face of European golf. He could rarely have had a more courageous moment than yesterday's, though, when he appeared inside a jumper of quite extraordinary pastels. After this, it was easy to believe his assertion that he will not get embarrassed in front of a crowd on Sunday. "I'm not afraid to win and if I do get

the opportunity I hope to take it," he said. "I won't be nervous coming down the stretch if I'm leading. I'm not afraid of winning and I'm not afraid of losing. If I don't win the Open this year it won't be the end of the world to me. I would dearly love to win, but it's not life or death. It's only a game."

With his perma-smile and crumpled baseball cap, Westwood has the look of an eager forecourt attendant. He is looking forward to the customers turning out to support him this week. "It's good to have people

walking round with you, the enthusiasm is there with the crowd," he said. "It's a good atmosphere and if you hit it off they will have trampled the rough down."

Westwood may have played most of his golf in his home county of Nottinghamshire, in the very heart of England, but it is competition on Britain's fringes that most takes him. "Links golf has always been my preferred golf," he said. "It's more of a challenge than when 23-under wins. I like to play tournaments where you need two good shots to the green to

make par, and three or four-under wins. It's something that is either suited to your game or not. I'm trying to go into it positively, thinking that I can play links golf."

Unlike Woods, Lee Westwood devalues all the material written about him. "Occasionally I see articles I don't like, but I remember who writes them," he said. "I've got a little list at home. It is this factor which leads many writers to insist that Westwood is the most charming, delightful and talented golfer and man in the whole of Europe."

Chippers off the old block

GREG NORMAN stood on a mound near the 17th green yesterday and called for a ruling. Norman didn't like the way the ball was lying, not one little bit. "Is there a rule about burrowing animals," the Great White Shark shouted to the crowd of about 50 spectators. "Is there any member here who can help?"

Val Moran, a vision in purple waterproofs, stepped boldly forward, inspected the ball and its habitat and told Greg what he wanted to hear: a free drop was in order.

This may have been the Junior Open, but Norman was leaving nothing to chance. His son, Gregory, needed all the breaks he could get. Presumably Greg named his son Gregory to avoid any confusion. At Formby Golf Club it was not difficult to differentiate between the two.

Watson and Norman faced each other on the links yesterday - their dads were there too. By Tim Glover

For starters Gregory is not much taller than a burrowing animal. The shortest competitor in the Junior Open, Gregory was dwarfed by his graphite-shafted driver. Nevertheless, at the age of 12 he looked the part, even if he did have the devil of a job getting his ball out of the rough.

Wearing a cap with his father's trademark shark emblem on the front, he found Formby different from any course he had ever played. Especially in a freezing gale.

Gregory, who has a handicap of 14, shot 108 in the second and final round which was two strokes better than his first round. "He's a lot like his father," his teaching professional in Florida said. "He plays very

intensely, deliberately and is a driven competitor."

Little Gregory was in good company yesterday. He was playing with his friend Michael Watson, the son of Tom, and Louise Kenney, the five junior champion. Michael, aged 15 and with a handicap of "five or six", drives the ball miles but he got off to a bad start in the second round before rallying. "I am happy," he said. "I played the back nine as I wanted to."

Tom would occasionally yell as his son blasted out of the heather. "Usually," Michael said, "I don't enjoy my dad watching me play. It puts more pressure on me, although that's never his intention. It's his hard

having a famous father. You constantly hear people saying that's Tom Watson's son. It's hard on Gregory too."

Watson junior shot 77 after a 96 and his aggregate of 173 was matched by Louise. Also aged 15 and with a handicap of four, Louise, from Dundermole, scored 87, 86. Never mind the pressure on Gregory and Michael, Louise had to go round Formby in the close attendance of two men who between them have won seven Open championships.

"It was a bit daunting," Louise said, "but it was also very enjoyable and a unique experience. Greg gave me some putting tips and that is something I'll never forget."

It was also a red-letter day for David Inglis, who won the event with an extraordinary round of 71 for an aggregate of 148. It is not every day that you can boast that you beat an Open field including Norman and Watson.

According to Bernard Gallacher, the former European Ryder Cup captain, Inglis, a 16-year-old who plays at Glencon, near Edinburgh, off a handicap of plus one, has a tremendous future in the game. While the Watson family returns to Birkdale to prepare for the Open, the Normans took a private jet back to Florida via Ireland where Greg, who is out of action until September following a shoulder operation, is designing golf courses.

It is a line of employment that appeals to Michael Watson, even if he is only 15. "I don't know if being a professional golfer would really suit me,"



Gregory Norman (left) chats with Michael Watson during the Junior Open

Michael said. "It's a lot harder than it seems on TV." He once beat his father over nine holes in Hawaii and they have been warming up for Birkdale by playing in Ballyunion.

Given the conditions, Watson believes the winner on Sunday will be over par for the cham-

ionship. "The wind can be your friend or your enemy," he said, "but it's going to be extremely difficult. I can't wait to put it to the test one more time." It was at Birkdale that Watson won the last of his five Opens - indeed the last of his eight majors - in 1983.

However for the most part yesterday Watson's mind was on the form of his son. "Golf is not a perfect game and it was never meant to be," Tom said, "but Michael had a nicely balanced round with a very strong finish. It will be a tappy meal tonight."

TEE-OFF TIMES FOR TOMORROW AND FRIDAY AT ROYAL BIRKDALE

0715 and 1145: J Gump (Fr), F Jacobson (Swe), G Evans (Swe).	0905 and 1345: A Magee (US), C Montgomery, B Greshaw (US).	1105 and 1545: G Hurdson, S Young, G Spring.	1305 and 0825: M O'Meara (US), N Fiddo, S Maruyama (Japan).	1455 and 1015: P Middleton (US), C Rocca (It), F Nobilio (NZ).
0725 and 1155: M A Jimenez (Sp), S Dunlap (US), K Tomori (Japan).	0915 and 1355: S Wray (US), C Strange (US), G Turner (NZ).	1115 and 1555: G Dodd (Aus), R Giles, Kyoung Ju Choi (S Kor).	1315 and 0835: J Durand (US), R Russell, S Leamy (Aus).	1505 and 1025: G Player (SA), G Day (US), P Senior (Aus).
0735 and 1215: M Kuchar (US), S Torrance, S Appleby (Aus).	0925 and 1405: B Faxon (US), L Westwood, T Dodds (Nam).	1125 and 1605: F Howley, S Alker (NZ), L Jones.	1325 and 0845: B Watts (US), S Lyle, Y Mizumori (Japan).	1515 and 1035: D Cooper, M Long (NZ), D Smyth.
0745 and 1225: S Hach (US), P Sjoland (Swe), S Elkington (Aus).	0935 and 1415: J P Hayes (US), R Clayton, M McIntyre (Zim).	1135 and 1615: F Henge (Swe), C Sumner (Sp), A Capp.	1335 and 0855: L Janzen (US), I Woodnam, C Parry (Aus).	1525 and 1045: P Lawrie, M Hallberg (Swe), S Struwer (Ger).
0755 and 1235: S Stricker (US), S Ballesteros (Sp), T Watson (US).	0945 and 1425: T Woods (US), P-U Johansson (Swe), N Price (Zim).	1145 and 0715 (Fri): T Lavett (Fr), H Clark, B Daves.	1345 and 0905: J Daly (US), B Langer (Ger), P Stewart (US).	1535 and 1055: R Bland, D Lee, M McGulre.
0805 and 1245: C Pavin (US), "D de Vooght" (Bel), K Hozokawa (Japan), T Igarashi (Japan).	0955 and 1435: M Brooks (US), D Clarke, E Romero (Arg).	1155 and 0725: G Brand Jr, B May, R Davis (Aus).	1355 and 0915: T Nise (US), A Coltart, F Minozza (Phil).	1545 and 1105: A McLardy (SA), A Ockorn, P Hedstrom (Swe).
0815 and 1255: B Mayfair (US), B Glasdon (US), D Howell.	1005 and 1445: P Purryk (US), P Harrington, S Allan (Aus).	1205 and 0735: P Mitchell, M Campbell (NZ), P Wilson.	1365 and 0925: J O'Leary (US), J M O'Leary (US).	1555 and 1115: S McCarthy, J Remsey (Fr), M Litton.
0825 and 1305: M Calavechella (US), J Haegmann (Swe), K Fukubori (Japan).	1015 and 1455: P Aldinger, S Garcia (Sp), T Johnstone (Zim).	1215 and 0745: J Leonard (US), T Bjorn (Zim), D Duval (US).	1375 and 0935: L Roberts (US), S Luna (Sp), G Colmers (Aus).	1605 and 1125: J Rose, S Timming (Den), B Dredge.
0835 and 1315: S Cink (US), J Huston, T Igarashi (Japan).	1025 and 1505: J Parnell (US), P McGinley, D Frost (SA).	1225 and 0755: S Kendall (US), D Carrer, C Franco (Par).	1385 and 0945: D Hart (US), G Orr, R Goosen (SA).	1615 and 1135: D Shacklady, S Armstrong, J Lovell.
0845 and 1325: B Estes (US), P Baker, S Ames (Iri).	1035 and 1515: G Brown, R Drummond, S Henderson.	1235 and 0805: D Love III (US), I Garrido (Sp), V Singh (Phil).	1395 and 0955: T Lehman (US), M James, E Els (SA).	
0855 and 1335: B Jobe (US), R Karlsson (Swe), T Suzuki (Japan).				

OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP ODDS

MARKET LEADERS				INTERESTING OUTSIDERS			
T	W	T	C	T	W	T	C
T Woods	10	11	10	J Daly	80	80	125
L Westwood	12	12	12	B Pann	80	80	66
C Westgomerle	12	14	14	C Rocca	100	100	125
E Els	14	14	12	S Torrance	100	100	80
J Purryk	20	22	22	S Garcia	200	150	150
T Lethuan	20	18	20	M Kuchar	150	150	100
D Duval	25	18	18	S Ballesteros	200	150	150
F Couples	25	20	20	S Lyle	250	150	200
J-H O'Leary	25	28	28	H-Hills, T-Tote, C-Corals, L-Ladbrokes			
J Leonard	33	40	40	E/W 1/4 1.2.3.4. Ladbrokes special bet: E/W 1/5 1.2.3.4.5.			
D Clarke	33	38	40				
D Love III	33	38	40				
I Woodnam	33	33	40				
J Parnell	33	40	40				
N Price	33	28	40				
P Middleton	33	33	40				
B Langer	40	40	40				
L Janzen	40	40	40				
M O'Meara	40	33	40				

O'Meara makes up for lost time

GOLF

BY ANDY FARRELL
at Royal Birkdale

MARK O'MEARA'S first appearance at Royal Birkdale came 11 years ago. The event was the Lawrence Batley International and O'Meara won in spectacular fashion. He holed two full seven-iron shots on the back nine, at the 11th and the 18th. "It was quite exciting," the Masters champion said. "Something I'll always remember."

So will Carl Mason, the veteran English professional who had to wait another seven years for his first victory. O'Meara found out what it was like to be in Mason's shoes when Birkdale staged the Open in 1991. The American, who tied for third place with Fred Couples, played with Ian Baker-Finch in the final round.

"It was just Ian's day," O'Meara said. "He played a tremendous round of golf, about as good as nine holes as I've ever seen played on the front side." The Australian went to the turn in 29 that sunny Sunday to win his only

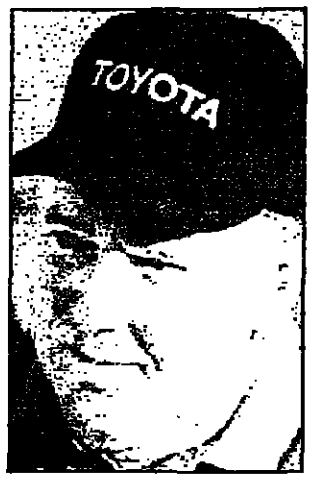
major. Since then, the decline has been well documented. Baker-Finch is back at Birkdale, but only as a television commentator. "Before Ian went back to Australia, when he was still living in Orlando and going through some of his trials and tribulations, we practised a lot together," O'Meara recalled. "I tried to encourage him a lot, for we all know what kind of person he is. He is a super gentleman and was a great asset for the game. To see what Ian had to struggle through was difficult for everyone."

"Golf is such a humbling game, but that's what makes it so special. You are out there on your own and you don't have a team to rely on. When you are playing well and winning, then for are the top guy. When you are not playing well, people tend not to notice. Then, when you are really struggling, everybody seems to notice."

"Right now in the US, Chip Beck is struggling with his game and there have been others who were at the top of the game for a long time who then struggled. As these young players come through who are fiery and competitive there is more of an intimidation factor. It is so difficult to keep trying to improve your game."

O'Meara knows at first hand after practising with Tiger Woods for the past two years. The 41-year-old turned from money machine to major winner trying to keep up with the prodigy. O'Meara was surprised anew on Monday when Woods almost drove the green at the 457-yard eighth hole. "I don't see anything too wrong with Tiger's game," O'Meara said of his predecessor as Masters champion's

quiet spell in recent majors. "What I do see is that the competition level is very keen and there are a lot of other fine players besides Tiger Woods. I think he understands that. "I think the true sign of a fine player is that he can dig deep and figure out what's going wrong when he's not playing well. We will see what happens this week but I think the course will suit him. I think any course suits him. There is no question that he has an advantage when it comes to power, but he can play all the shots."



O'Meara: 'Humbling game'

the LPGA tour, will play at the Women's British Open at Royal Lytham and St Anne's, which starts on 13 August.

Briton saved by his helmet

CHRIS BOARDMAN said yesterday that he would have suffered serious injury had he not been wearing a helmet when he crashed out of the Tour.

The 1992 Olympic gold medalist ended up in Cork's University Hospital with a broken wrist and facial injuries after a collision with a team-mate sent him sliding into a roadside stone wall during Monday's second stage.

The British rider, who flew home to the Wirral last night, said he would have "no objection" if helmets were to be made compulsory on the Tour.

"If I was unconscious with a helmet, then I don't like to think what would have happened if I had not been wearing one," Boardman said.

"I will continue to wear one. That was a real lesson for me. At the moment you are not forced to wear a helmet. If they made it obligatory then I would have no objection to it, but I know a lot of my colleagues would."

Boardman, who was wearing the leader's yellow jersey at the time of the crash, had a brain scan and was detained overnight for observation.

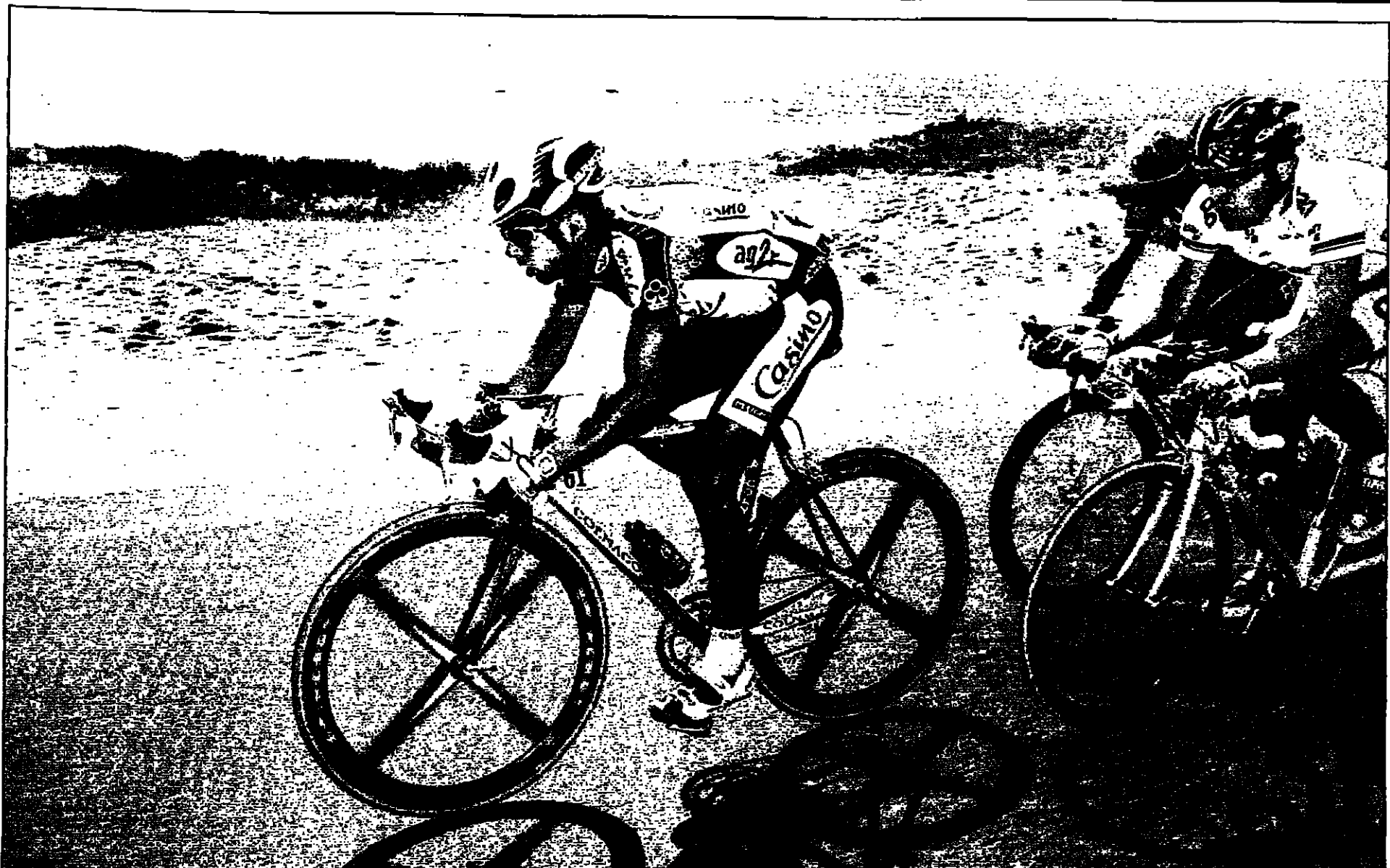
"I remember nothing of the crash. I haven't got a clue what happened," he said. "I remember riding cross-winds, and the next thing I remember is waking up and looking at the ceiling of the ambulance. The first thing I did was wiggle my toes - I knew then I wasn't too bad."

Boardman was more concerned about 11-year-old Laura Seward, who was seriously hurt in a separate accident, than himself. The girl was still critically ill yesterday after sustaining serious head and other injuries when struck by one of the riders just minutes before the GAN rider came off.

"There's no way I'm going to moan about a few scratches," he said.



Boardman displays his Tour injuries yesterday



Bo Hamburger leads a nine-man breakaway by the seaside between Roscoff and Lorient yesterday. The Casino team rider went on to claim the yellow jersey

Smith snaps up £3m Italian

FOOTBALL

BY ALAN NIXON

WALTER SMITH, the new Everton manager, made his first signing last night when he paid £3m for the Italian centre-half Marco Materazzi from Perugia. The 25 year old was at Goodison Park yesterday for a medical and to look for a house after terms were agreed.

Materazzi was first spotted by Smith when he was the manager of Rangers and was considering signing Marco Negri. The defender is highly rated in Italy and helped Perugia return to Serie A last season. The signing will put pressure on players such as Craig Short and Carl Tiler, who could become available as Smith rebuilds the Everton squad.

Bradford City have been ordered to pay for their new signing Ashley Westwood by the Football League after a dispute that could have implications for the transfer system in England. The First Division club were told yesterday that they must abide by the rules and come to an agreement with Crewe Alexandra over a fee.

Westwood has signed a contract at Bradford and the League registered him yesterday after initially threatening to refuse to process the papers after the Bradford chairman, Geoffrey Richmond, claimed that new transfer rules may breach European Commission regulations.

The League's spokesman, Chris Hull, said: "This system has been agreed by all of professional football and all clubs have got to adhere to it. Bradford are obliged under the agreement to pay a fee set by a tribunal."

Bradford could withhold their money and test the law. Westwood may also take legal action for restraint of trade, but that might mean he is unable to continue playing. The effects of the dispute could leave all players of any age as free agents at the end of their contract.

Bruce Grobbelaar has joined Bury as a free agent. The former Liverpool goalkeeper turned out for the First Division club in a closed-door friendly yesterday and is to sign a short-term contract.

Kevin Keegan wants to make the former Manchester City skipper, Kit Symons, his next signing for Fulham. Symons is available on a free transfer after turning down terms with the relegated Manchester club and Keegan is keen to pair him with fellow Wales international Chris Coleman.

France will name the successor to their World Cup-winning coach, Aimé Jacquet, on Friday.

Hamburger has day to relish

CYCLING

BY ROBIN NICHOLL
with the Tour de France

JENS HEPPNER became the latest "bad boy" of the 1997 Tour to restore his honour when he foiled French chances of an extra celebration on Bastille Day.

On Sunday the Belgian Tom Steels won, thereby going some way to compensating for his expulsion from last year's race, for throwing a plastic bottle at another rider in a sprint finish.

Then the German Erik Zabel, who was also disqualified in the same sprint in Marennes, took over the race lead on Monday.

Yesterday, his team-mate Heppner beat the Xavier Jan of France in a sprinting duel at the finale of the third stage, and the first on French soil.

Last year Heppner and the Dutchman Bart Veskamp were involved in a similar battle at Le Puy du Fou and were disqualified after leaning on each other in the final sprint.

Heppner joined a 129km escape by eight riders, with the intention of protecting team-mate Zabel's yellow jersey of Tour leader. His co-leaders were too ambitious for one man to contain, so when he realised that Zabel was about to lose his overall lead to Denmark's Bo Hamburger, Heppner went on the offensive.

"I decided to attack, and all through the last kilometre I thought about Veskamp, and I told myself not to act silly this time."

Hamburger missed the winning move, but scored full marks with his mathematics. He now leads by two seconds from

the American George Hincapie after finishing fourth behind George Hincapie in the stage.

They chased home two seconds after the duelling sprinters, followed by their co-leaders, but Hamburger's sprinting had picked up sufficient time bonuses to bring him to within a second of Zabel. Hincapie was upset over the participation of Heppner and Jan in the pace-setting of the small group.

"The FDJ guy [Jan] and Telekom guy [Heppner] were sitting up all day," Hincapie said, implying that they were not pushing hard during the fast pace.

"With a sprint like that at the end it is different because everyone is so wasted except for those two other guys," he added.

The result gave Hamburger

and his co-leaders a lead of one minute and eight seconds over the German put Hamburger in yellow, and he gave the credit to his baby daughter.

"Becoming a father has changed my attitude completely, and my morale is higher than ever," Hamburger said later, whose new French team Casino has scored 42 victories this season.

Last year he was beaten to the world road race title by Frenchman Laurent Brochard in San Sebastian, but Hamburger feels his change of team and baby daughter have each given him a new lease of life.

The only hamburger that interested French fans was those they were cooking on roadside barbecues. It was July 14 - Bastille Day - and banners flew, proclaiming "Alles Les

Blous" or, as one Breton demanded, "Un maillot jaune pour Zidane."

Zidane would doubtless be happy with his lot. Yellow jerseys have a nasty habit of biting the wearer, as Chris Boardman discovered on Monday.

He joined a long list of fallen leaders. One of the last yellow jersey wearers to crash was Rolf Sorensen from Denmark in 1991.

Hamburger is precariously placed. Two seconds from Hincapie is nothing, and those involved in yesterday's long breakaway find themselves in striking distance.

The real Tour should begin once Jan Ulrich and his rivals rise to the top, so for the also-rans these are the days to grab glory. Even as fleeting as the glory held by Boardman and Zabel.

TOUR DE FRANCE Stage three (Roscoff-Lorient, 169km): 1 Heppner (Ger); Telekom 3hrs 33mins 36secs; 2 Jan (Fr) La Française des Jeux same time; 3 Hincapie (US) US Postal at 2secs; 4 B Hamburger (Den) Casino; 5 S O'Grady (Aus) Gila; 6 V Garcia-Acosta (Sp) Barreto; 7 P Herre (Fr) Festina; 8 P Chantier (Fr) Casino at 5secs; 9 F Guldil (Fr) Post at 1min 10secs. Selected others: 38 J Ulrich (Ger) Telekom plus 1:10; 41 A Chone (Sp) Barreto; 58 R Virenque (Fr) Festina; 60 A Zülle (Swi) Festina; 105 M Pantani (It) Mercatone Uno all same time; 138 M Scandini (It) La Française des Jeux at 1min 10secs. Overall standings: 1 B Hamburger (Den) Casino 13:55:00; 2 G Hincapie (US) US Postal at 2secs; 3 S O'Grady (Aus) GAN at 2secs; 4 J Heppner (Ger) Telekom same time; 5 X Jan (Fr) La Française des Jeux at 21secs; 6 P Herre (Fr) Festina at 22secs; 7 V Garcia-Acosta (Sp) Barreto at 23secs; 8 P Chantier (Fr) Casino at 25secs; 9 F Guldil (Fr) Post at 26secs; 10 E Zabel (Ger) Telekom at 1min 2secs. Selected others: 17 J Ulrich (Ger) plus 1:11; 20 A Zülle (Swi) + 1:13; 29 R Virenque (Fr) + 1:15; 38 M Scandini (It) La Française des Jeux at 1min 36secs; 149 Pantani + 1:54. Poles: 1 J Svorada (Cz) Repi Mapei 71; 2 T Steels (Bel) Mapei 68; 3 E Zabel (Ger) Telekom 67; 4 R McEwen (Aus) Radioshack 56; 5 F Moncassin (Fr) GAN 53. King of Mountains: 1 P Herre (Fr) Festina 28 pts; 2 S Zanini (It) Mapei 16; 3 J Voigt (Ger) GAN 10; 4 B Hamburger (Den) Casino 7; 5 C Agnolotto (Fr) Casino 7.

Festina deny masseur's drugs claim

A FESTINA masseur has allegedly told a French magistrate that he was carrying performance-enhancing drugs in his car for the team and not for personal use.

Willy Voet, a 53-year-old Belgian, had previously said the drugs were for his own use and had nothing to do with Festina, who are among the Tour de France favourites. He was detained last week after customs

officers in the French-Belgian border town of Neuville-en-Ferrain discovered anabolic steroids in his car, which was painted in Festina colours.

Judicial sources in Lille said yesterday that Voet, who has been charged with possession of banned substances, now says he was acting on team orders.

Bruno Roussel, the Festina team manager, called the accusations "absurd", denied

asking one of his masseurs to procure substances which are forbidden by law and refused to pull his team out of the race.

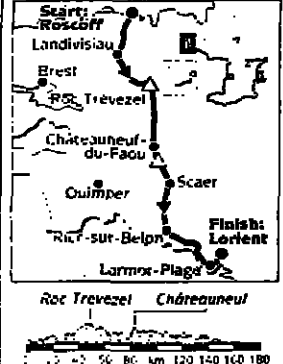
"These are riders who work all year long and train a lot in order to get there, who have done nothing wrong," he said. "All that I know is that they have done nothing bad."

Before the start of yesterday's third stage, the team's lawyer, Thibault de Montbail,

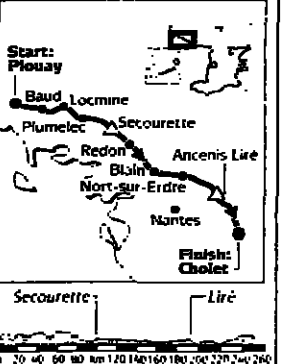
said: "Roussel is very surprised by this news and he wants to see the police as soon as possible to bring some serenity back to his team. This is an unbearable situation for them."

The Tour director, Jean-Marie Leblanc, will not take any action until he hears something official. "We would be in trouble if I made a decision against Festina and then they were cleared," he said.

YESTERDAY: STAGE 3



TODAY: STAGE 4



Agassi still thrilled to answer the Davis Cup call

TENNIS

INDIVIDUALS ARE being pushed aside by the thrill of representing one's country, say members of the United States team that will start competing against Belgium in Indianapolis on Friday.

"It's nice to come together as a team and play for your country," said Andre Agassi, who tied the US record of 16 consecutive victories in Davis Cup play earlier this year.

Agassi, who like teammate

Jim Courier was once ranked No 1 in the world, is representing his country in the event for the 19th time. He has won 25 matches and lost five after having his record streak snapped by Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the first round this year.

And at 28, Agassi isn't ready to stop competing for the Davis Cup.

"The memories that I've had inspire me to continue," said Agassi, who is in Indianapolis instead of taking advantage of

a week off to spend time with his wife, actress Brooke Shields.

Courier has a unique streak going as he represents the US for the 12th time. The Americans have never lost a tie when Courier has been on the team.

It's no big deal, he said as the team made a public appearance at a Planet Hollywood restaurant.

"Not really," he said. "If my record was perfect, then maybe I'd be concerned about it. But I've had the good fortune to play

on a lot of good teams. When they've needed me to come up with a good result, I have. And when I've gone out and lost the fourth match, Andre or someone else has won the crucial fifth match."

Meanwhile, the man promoting ticket sales for the event said he's been encouraged by recent interest.

"Sales were a little soft," said Russ Cline, who has been promoting ticket sales for Davis Cup events in the United States since 1989. "They were behind

any other second-round ties I've done."

Cline said he was hopeful of having between 4,000 to 5,000 spectators at each day of the competition. The 8,461-seat Stadium Court at the Indianapolis Tennis Center will be set up with about 5,200 seats.

Both teams were scheduled to have two practice sessions at the tennis facility yesterday, and the draw for the matches will be held tomorrow when the captains must announce their line-up.

There is no mystery about the American team. Agassi and Courier, 13-8 in Cup play, will compete in singles. Todd Martin and Richey Reneberg, who only played together in one tournament before they scored a valuable point as the US defeated Russia 3-2 in the opening round of this year's World Group play, will play doubles.

The same four players who represented the United States in tie at Stone Mountain, Georgia, are back to wear their national red-white-and-blue

uniform. "We are a very solid team with Andre and Jim. Todd and I played well together against the Russians," said Reneberg, who at 32 is the oldest player to represent the country since 33-year-old John McEnroe last played for the U.S. in 1992. "We have some continuity and we all know what to do and what not to do. Belgium has a very good team and we can't take them lightly."

Belgium captain Koen Gonnissen doesn't plan to announce his lineup until tomorrow.

He will be choosing from among four young players - Filip Dewulf, Christophe Van Garsee, Johan Van Herck and 17-year-old Xavier Malisse.

The American teenage tennis player, Samantha Reeves, tested positive last December for the anabolic steroid nandrolone in an out-of-competition test, the International Tennis Federation (ITF) said yesterday. In a statement, the ITF said because of "exceptional circumstances" it would not impose any sanctions.



Seeing Skerrett hit by divided loyalties

RUGBY LEAGUE
BY DAVE HADFIELD

KELVIN SKERRETT, the new Wales captain, has criticised the two sides of the game's political divide for forcing him and 10 others to play a Super League match and an international within 48 hours.

Skerrett is due to lead Wales against England at Wigan on Sunday afternoon, but before that he and five other members of the Welsh side must come safely through the Halifax versus Sheffield game at Northampton on Friday night.

Three members of the original England squad are also involved in that game, plus the Halifax stand-off, Chris

Chester, and Sheffield's Darren Turner, who have been added as cover for injuries.

"We have two governing bodies, with neither interested in what the other is doing, putting pressure on players to play in both matches," Skerrett said.

"It should either have been made a full international, with players released from club games, or the Northampton game should have been changed with one involving fewer international players."

Wales trimmed their squad to 20 yesterday, leaving out Paul Moriarty, whose transfer to Bristol will preclude him from playing, but including Iestyn Harris, who has assured Mike Nicholas, the Wales team manager, that he will be

fit, despite a nagging ankle injury.

Steve Blakeley is out of England's team, because of a foot problem that has kept him out of recent Salford games, but Andy Goodway, the England manager, is retaining him in his squad as team captain.

The captaincy for the match itself will not be decided until Saturday, with the two candidates, the Sheffield prop Steve Molloy and Halifax hooker Paul Rowley, both playing at Northampton the previous evening.

Hopes were high last night that Super League, the Rugby League and the First and Second Division Association would agree on a formula to govern promotion to Super League in

time for today's special meeting of clubs. The promotion issue is the one potential sticking point before clubs can agree on a £55m deal from Sky television.

Wigan have appointed Peter Norbury, the club's solicitor for the past seven months, as their new chairman. Norbury replaces Mike Nolan, who resigned last week. Dave Whelan, the club's dominant shareholder, preferring to remain in the background.

Whelan insists on the possibility of promotion for lower division clubs. As he is the owner of JJB Sports, the sponsors of the Super League, that view must carry some weight with anyone hankering after a closed shop.



A diver prepares to take the plunge in the Pre-Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. The games are a practice run for organisers before the main event takes place in September.

FOLKESTONE

HYPERION
1.40 Castle Ashby Jack 2.10 Zmle 2.40 Jack Goodman 3.10 Prince Zando 3.40 JOHNNY STACCATO (nap) 4.10 Malaysian Moon 4.40 Slip Venture

GOING: Good.
STALLS: Straight course - stands side: Round - outside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High 1st for 71 to 1m.
Right-hand, undulating course.
Course: 6m W of end of A20. Westernhanger station adjoins course. ADMISSION: Club & Tattersall's £70; Public Park £4 per car plus £4 per occupant. Under 16s free. CAR PARK: Free.
LEADING TRAINERS: R. Hammon 16-21 (12.2%), J. Dunlop 12-15 (26.1%), M. Channon 12-91 (12.2%), G. L. Moore 11-99 (11.1%).
LEADING JOCKEYS: T. Quinn 10-12 (14.4%), T. Sprake 12-87 (13.5%), A. Whelan 11-75 (12.4%), S. Drowne 8-82 (12.8%).
FAVOURITES: 1st-522 (34.7%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Soviet Lady (140), Tashkent (310), Slip Venture (insured), 440.

1.40 ORANJEBLOOM CLASSIFIED CLAIMING STAKES (F) (DIV 1) £3,000 7f
1. 13.00 RADAR O'REILLY (10) R Hills 11
2. 50.00 GAIN LINE (USA) (26) D. O'Dwyer 5.2
3. 50.00 MICHELLE (10) S. Jones 5.2
4. 00.00 CASTLE ASHBY (10) S. Jones 5.2
5. 50.00 GUINNESS GLORY (11) M. L. Moore 5.2
6. 00.00 LAST CHANCE (10) D. O'Dwyer 4.9
7. 00.00 DANK MURPHY (10) D. O'Dwyer 4.9
8. 50.00 SORVET LADY (10) D. O'Dwyer 4.9
9. 00.00 BARBERIAN (10) M. L. Moore 5.2
10. 00.00 MAGIC FALLS (10) S. Jones 5.2
11. 00.00 FINE COLOUR (10) S. Jones 5.2
12. 00.00 SHANUKU (10) S. Jones 5.2
13. 00.00 SORVET LADY (10) D. O'Dwyer 4.9
14. 00.00 FAN-SO-LA (10) S. Jones 5.2
15. 00.00 FAN-SO-LA (10) S. Jones 5.2

BETTING: 1-11 Five Goldies, 4-11 Darts Mares, 7-11 Radar O'Reilly, Last Chance, Soviet Lady, 3-1 Gain Line, Guinness Glory, 10-11 others.

FORM VERDICT
High numbers enjoyed a significant advantage over the straight 7f (going fast) at the first meeting (first six in 15-run handicap drawn 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 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Smithies aiming to settle a score

Guy Hodgson meets an England captain ready to face Australia without an inferiority complex

YOU MIGHT think they would know better. Call something the Ashes and Australians subject you to decades of sporting gloom, lightened only by occasional and unexpected shafts of light. But try telling that to England's women's cricketers. They are determined to commit the folly.

Next Tuesday at Lord's, a bat will be ceremoniously set alight and part of the charred remains will be stuffed into a mounted cricket trophy to become the latest cricket trophy we probably will not see much of again. Brace yourselves for generations of Down Under dominance.

Or maybe not. Unlike their male counterparts, England's women have at least won the World Cup and can see an Australian cricket cap without suffering a sharp sense of inferiority. There are even grounds for believing the Ashes might stay in this country, something the men have not managed since 1986-87.

The Australians are the world one-day champions, but are relatively inexperienced at

Test match length and if England can hold on to the coat-tails of the tourists over the sprint, they might prevail over the longer distance. That is the theory anyway, and one that survived a rain-affected defeat at Scarborough on Sunday.

"A lot of positive things came out of that game," Karen Smithies, the England captain, said. "There's a thing through-out English cricket that the Australians are always better than us, but although we are underdogs we know we can beat them. The one-day series will be important in terms of confidence, and that will be very close."

The series resumes today at Derby before going on to Hove and Southampton at the weekend, and Lord's next week. After that, the captain for the three Tests (each lasting three days) will be announced, and it would be a surprise if Smithies, top scorer with 41 in Scarborough, is not reappointed.

As Smithies has been in the England team for 12 years and captain for six, it is easy to regard her as living on borrowed



Karen Smithies: "There's a thing in English cricket that Australia are always better than us, but we know we can beat them" Peter Jay

time at international level, but she is only 29 and, as Sunday proved, is some way short of her sell-by date. As the standard of English women's cricket has got better, so has she.

Awarded the OBE after England won the World Cup under her leadership, she has presided over the national team at a time when they have gone from being a slightly eccentric offshoot of the game to being accepted into its core, the England and Wales Cricket Board. BSKYB will screen today's

match as well as Sunday's encounter at Southampton, and there will also be coverage of the Test series.

It is a considerable departure from her own start when she used to get a game with her father's miners' welfare club in Leicestershire - going on to captain the boys' Under-18 side for two seasons - and one that was given its biggest shove by England's World Cup win five years ago.

Australia lost out to England in 1993 but gained ample re-

venge in India last year when they recorded an eight-wicket win en route to becoming world champions. "They are the best team around without any doubt," Smithies said. "Their fielding is superb, in skipper Belinda Clark they have one of the best batters in the women's game and Cathryn Fitzpatrick is probably the fastest female bowler in the world."

Even so, England's demise that day was undoubtedly aided by a nightmare preparation that included a six-hour coach journey with only three hours' sleep before having to catch a plane, and a practice session washed out by rain.

"The schedule we had was horrendous, it should never have happened," she said. "Early get-ups, 20-hour days, they were the norm and when you take into account the travel and the different food, it wasn't practical. Not when you're trying to play international cricket."

"The game in Nagpur was a shock to us because we'd been playing sides like Ireland and Denmark, who we'd thrashed out of sight, and all of a sudden we were up against a good outfit. It was bit of a massacre."

Demoralising it might have been, but it has given the current series a sharper edge. "Australia are always the ones you want to play against," she said, "particularly now they are world champions and they took the crown off us. It's a bit of a needle contest. I'd regard winning this tour as the next best thing to winning the World Cup."

His efforts helped Worcestershire to reach 261 for 7 with Rhodes continuing the revival with a defiant 44 before falling in the final over - the 80th - to Peter Martin as wicketkeeper Warren Hegg picked up his fifth catch of the day.

"Title-chasing Lancashire were left to reflect on what might have been after spilling five catches and failing to bowl the consistent line and length needed in helpful conditions."

Sri Lanka unsettled by Parsons' blows

By DEREK HODGSON at Taunton

Somerset 366-6 dec
Sri Lanka 8-2

THE SCORE suggests that the selectors' nightmare - England losing the series to South Africa and then being drubbed by Sri Lanka at The Oval - is no more than that.

The opening day of the tour was more complex. Somerset, now well attuned to this wretched summer, were given a comparatively easy ride by a

team going through their exercises, sweater-clad and blowing on their hands.

Sri Lanka's first one-day match, at Southampton, was washed out. For this fixture they rested three of their principals, the batsmen Arjuna Ranatunga and Aravinda de Silva and the off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan. The pitch was slow and flat, the clouds driven by a stiff crosswind.

There is a guide to form in Sri Lanka's tour of South Africa last March. True, they lost both Tests but the margins were by

70 runs and six wickets; Allan Donald and Shaun Pollock shared 20 wickets while the Muralitharan took 18 of the 33 South African wickets.

The Sri Lankans are also needed by the fact that again they have been granted only one Test in England, not sufficient recognition, they feel, of their status as the World Cup holders.

Several senior players were reluctant to come to England until their board pointed out that experience of English conditions was vital if the trophy is

to be defended successfully next year.

Somerset's Marcus Trescothick had two escapes, snickering between wicket and slip when on 20 and had a dolly dropped at first slip eight runs later. Yet Somerset were past 200 before he played on, the innings of real quality coming from Mark Lathwell, a 56 studied with some offside genes. His eight fours made Trescothick's 10 look laboured.

Once Lathwell had gone, aiming again outside his off-stump, the innings droned

along as Sri Lanka gave their bowlers needed over. The pick was the tall seamer, Pramodya Wickramasinghe. He made a hesitant start but still finished his first spell of eight overs with a commendable 2 for 29 and thereafter demonstrated an impressive late outswing.

Keith Parsons then took over the anchor role, straight driving handsomely once past 50, and alongside Adrian Pierson, he steered Somerset into a position from where they have hopes of netting the £11,000 prize Vodafone is offering win-

ning counties. Parsons reached his second hundred for Somerset off 208 balls, 16 fours, the declaration leaving Sri Lanka five overs. The tourists then lost their star, Sanath Jayasuriya, when he trod on his stumps in the first.

The small, cheerful crowd would have liked to be able to identify the players. Surely, at a time when one sporting event can attract 475 million television viewers, even first-class cricket could stoop to putting players' names on shirts?

Rafique weaves his magic over Scotland on day of controversy

MOHAMMED RAFIQUE, the Bangladesh spinner yesterday cast a spell over Scotland's batsman with a devastating five-wicket haul as the tourists enjoyed the upper hand at the start of the second three-day match at Boghall, Linlithgow. With Scotland dismissed for 199, Bangladesh negotiated 12 overs to reach 19 for 0 by the close.

However the left-handed Rafique, who finished the day with figures of 5 for 44, was helped by two controversial

decisions by the leading Scottish umpire, David Potter.

First to suffer was George Salmon, who was given out to a bat-pat catch when the ball appeared neither to touch his bat nor carry to the fielder.

The same official later accounted for West of Scotland's Craig Wright, who was adjudged run out, having passed the stumps before the Bangladesh players' muted appeal prompted the finger to go up again.

Greig Williamson, from Clydesdale, at last gave the

home crowd something to cheer with his highest international score. The combative batsman hammered three huge sixes - one which saw the ball disappear out of the ground - on his way to a five 67 before he was last out, caught on the boundary to give Rafique his fifth victim.

Earlier, Dougie Lockhart had looked good in reaching 48 before he was needlessly run out, while Salmon had moved purposefully to 30 before his controversial dismissal.

The Nottinghamshire players, Jason Gallian and Paul Strang, were in good form at the Scarborough Festival as the Lord's Taverners beat the Heartache's XI by 15 runs to mark the end of the carnival stage of the event.

The Festival continues today with the Championship match between Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire and officially ends on Sunday when the two sides meet in the AXA League. Gallian hit 79 and Strang an unbeaten 53 as the Taverners

reached 198 for 7 in their 35 overs and the Heartache's fell 15 runs short despite a fine 83 by the former Surrey and England batsman Graham Roope, now playing League cricket in Yorkshire.

Strang also took 3 for 34 with his leg breaks to complete a good day for the Nottinghamshire pair.

Brian Lara, the Warwickshire captain, knows he needs to improve a disappointing Championship record this season when Warwickshire meet

Hampshire at Edgbaston today. The 1994 and 1995 champions are starting a spell of three successive home fixtures after falling into the bottom three with only two wins in eight games.

Michael Powell, who has captained the second team during a 16-day break in the Championship programme, is expected to resume as Nick Knight's opening partner.

The side is likely to be unchanged from the defeat by Lancashire on 29 June.

Swann sings elegant tune

By MIKE CAREY at Leicester

Northamptonshire 322
Leicestershire 41-3

WHEN YOU are anchored at the foot of the Championship table, it is important to identify a good batting pitch, win the toss and make the most of it. Northamptonshire managed the first two requirements here yesterday, but the last looked well beyond them when Alan Mullally took them apart with the new ball.

However, they were kept in contention by the prolific Mal Loye and, more surprisingly perhaps, Graeme Swann who, at 19, is in his first season. Under the circumstances their batting might have been gritty, heads-down stuff, but it was far from that - fluent, aggressive and, not least, full of class.

Their partnership of 111 in 28 overs does not look much statistically, but it put what had gone before firmly into perspective. More than that, the sheer bravura of their strokeplay must have given great heart to a side for whom little has gone right this season.

No team should be bowled out cheaply on this pitch, but Mullally, helped by a stiff cross-

breeze to bring the ball back into the right-hander, must have made everyone wonder: in 20 balls he removed Rob Bailey, with the aid of Phil Simmons' left-handed slip catch, Russell Warren and David Sales.

Loye and Swann joined forces at 124 for 6, perhaps sensing that when the new ball lost its hardness there would be few problems. At 18, though, Loye might have been run out if Darren Maddy had hit with his throw from cover. That apart, he did not require much luck and the correctness of his technique was a joy to watch.

Swann was no less impressive. At four he survived a difficult slip catch off Chris Lewis, significantly while Simmons was off the field having treatment. Several bowlers then explored a theory that he might be vulnerable to something short, but that was quickly dispelled by any number of crisp strokes off the back foot.

A series of elegant drives took him past his previous high score, 49, and an admirable maiden century beckoned until he was caught behind.

He had not only faced 118 balls, hitting 14 fours and a six, but had illustrated that no matter how gloomy the present, the future is bright for Northamptonshire.

Cullinan cuts loose for double century

By MYLES HODGSON at Chester-le-Street

South Africa 362-3 dec
Durham 10-4

DARYLL CULLINAN hit his highest score for South Africa to calm the tourists' nerves on the opening day of their Vodafone Challenge match against Durham after a succession of injuries jeopardised their preparations for next week's fourth Test.

The 31-year-old finished unbeaten on 200 as South Africa declared on an imposing 362 for 3 and he shared in a 232-run third-wicket partnership with the injured opener Gerhardus Liebenberg. Although the South Africa coach Bob Woolmer will have been delighted with Cullinan's form, the growing casualty list will be causing him concern.

Shaun Pollock, without a first-class innings since the second Test at Lord's, was withdrawn at short notice after feeling a hamstring tighten while warming up and Jacques Kallis (hamstring), Lance Klusener (ankle) and Adam Bacher (dislocated collarbone) are still receiving treatment. To increase Woolmer's anxiety, Liebenberg retired hurt in the fifth over after being struck by fast bowler Mervyn Dillon. After X-rays confirmed there was no fracture, he returned to the crease for a gutsy half-century.

Cullinan began slowly but, after reaching his half-century off 122 deliveries, grew in confidence during a 70-run second-wicket stand with the captain Hansie Cronje.

He reached his century with his 19th boundary and added a further 18 boundaries on his way to a personal landmark.

Britannic Assurance County Championship

Gloucestershire v Sussex

CHELTENHAM (Day 1 of 4): Gloucestershire (Aps), Sussex (1st Inn)

Sussex won toss

SUSSEX - First Innings

M T E Pelice b Smith.....50 0 0 23 20

W G Khan b Walsh.....59 0 0 131 151

M Nevill b Smith.....0 0 0 20 25

C J Adams b Lewis.....0 0 0 9 18

M G Bevan c Russell b Lewis.....47 0 0 98 136

N R Taylor c Russell b Smith.....8 0 0 9 17

R S C Harris-Jenkins c Mervin b Walsh.....0 0 0 6 11

IS Humphries b Lewis.....0 0 0 1 0

R J Kirtley b Walsh.....16 0 0 3 33 37

J D Lewis c Russell b Ball.....0 0 0 1 0

M A Robinson not out.....0 0 0 27 33

Extras (lb2 nb10).....12

Total (72.1 overs).....391

Falls: 1-11, 2-23, 3-38, 4-59, 5-100, 6-160, 7-160, 8-176, 9-177.

Bowling: C A Walsh 21-1-3-52-3, A M Smith 18-10-30-3, J Lewis 15-3-42-3, M W Alleyne 12-2-46-0, M C J Ball 6-1-15-1.

GLoucestershire - First Innings

N J Trainor bow b Lewis.....2 0 0 8 8

H C Hancock not out.....60 0 12 91 109

D P Heavon c Humphries b Mervin 13 0 2 44 50

M W Alleyne c Adams b Bevan.....17 0 2 34 35

J Lewis not out.....1 0 0 9 9

Extras (lb1).....54

Total (For 3, 31 overs).....94

Falls: 1-12, 2-50, 3-89.

To bat: M G N Windows, M J Church, H C Russell, M C J Ball.

A M Smith, C A Walsh.

Bowling: J D Lewis 8-2-25-1, R J Kirtley 11-29-0, R S C Harris-Jenkins 8-6-15-1, M A Robinson 6-1-15-0, M G Bevan 2-0-6-1.

Umpires: D J Constant and T E Jesty.

Lancashire v Worcestershire

LYTHAM (Day 1 of 4): Lancashire (3pts), Worcestershire (2pts)

Worcestershire won toss

WORCESTERSHIRE - First Innings

W P C Weston c Hegg b Martin.....21 0 0 2 54 51

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

A Hareet c Flintoff b Austin.....14 0 2 46 79

G A Hick c Hegg b Flintoff.....34 0 5 68 79

V S Solanki c Hegg b Austin.....87 0 15 133 190

T M Moody c Hegg b Flintoff.....11 0 0 21 22

D A Lathwell c Faltorother b Flintoff 0 0 0 6 11

IS J Rhodes c Hegg b Martin.....44 0 6 106 164

S R Lampert not out.....12 0 1 44 62

Extras (lb10 nb4 w20 nb4).....38

Total (For 7, 39.4 overs).....261

Falls: 1-35, 2-55, 3-100, 4-128, 5-142, 6-221, 7-261.

To bat: R K Illingworth, R J Chapman, P J Newport.

Bowling: V S Solanki 18-3-57-0, P J Martin 15-4-4-51-2.

D A Lathwell 11-6-54-2, G Chapman 11-1-38-0, A Flintoff 12-2-43-3, M Watkinson 2-1-4-0.

Umpires: H D Bird and A Clarkson.

Leicestershire v Northamptonshire

LEICESTER (Day 1 of 4): Leicestershire (Aps), Northamptonshire (1pts)

Northamptonshire won toss

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE - First Innings

R J Warren b Mullyally.....5 0 0 17 25

R J Bailey c Simmons b Mullyally.....5 0 0 17 16

M B Lloyd c Wells b Mullyally.....75 0 11 137 263

D J G Sales b Mullyally.....6 0 1 15 17

R M Curran b Wells.....18 0 2 25 39

A S Penberthy c Habb b Mullyally.....18 0 4 31 47

A J Ropley c Nuan b Mullyally.....10 0 2 19 30

G P Swann c Nuan b Mullyally.....92 1 14 118 135

J P Taylor c Nuan b Lewis.....41 1 6 50 59

F A Rose b Mullyally.....1 0 0 5 3

D E Malcolm not out.....14 0 3 12 28

Extras (lb4 nb3).....37

Total (81.5 overs).....322

Falls: 1-11, 2-14, 3-28, 4-69, 5-110, 6-174, 7-235, 8-274, 9-275.

Bowling: A D Mullyally 18-3-43-5, D J Miles 19-4-61-1, V J Wells 11-2-45-1, C C Lewis 14-5-1-73-1, M T Brimston 16-5-55-1, D L Maddy 3-0-19-1.

LEICESTERSHIRE - First Innings

V J Wells bow b Rose.....1 0 0 5 7

D L Maddy not out.....1 0 0 7 16

J J Sutcliffe c Ropley b Malcolm.....1 0 0 7 4

B F Smith not out.....2 0 0 2 2

Extras.....0

Total (For 2, 3.3 overs).....10

Falls: 1-1, 2-2.

To bat: P V Simmons, A Habb, I P A Nixon, C C Lewis, D J Miles, A S Mullyally, M T Brimston.

Bowling: D E Malcolm 2-0-3-1, F A Rose 1-3-0-2-1.

Umpires: B Leadbeater and A G T Whitehead.

AXA League

Warwickshire v Hampshire

EDGBASTON (One day):

Warwickshire won toss

WARWICKSHIRE - First Innings

N V Knight c Udal b Hartley.....40 0 5 63 84

M K Smith b McLean.....10 0 1 17 24

B C Lara bow b Hartley.....22 0 3 31 34

D L Kemp b Whittaker b Mascarenhas.....1 0 0 8 4

Extremes bow b Hartley.....20 0 3 3 3

D R Brown bow b Stephenson.....20 0 3 3 3

A F Giles c Udal b Udal.....13 0 1 24 22

G Welch run out.....7 0 0 15 17

M A Shelton bow b Stephenson.....8 0 0 18 16

R J Piper not out.....0 0 0 4 3

E S H Giddins run out.....0 0 0 0 0

Extras (lb3 w3).....6

Total (25.3 overs).....128

Falls: 1-29, 2-69, 3-70, 4-73, 5-87, 6-112, 7-112, 8-125, 9-128.

Bowling: N A M McLean 5-0-24-1, C A Connor 6-0-18-0, P J Hartley 8-0-24-3, A D Mascarenhas 5-0-23-1, S D Udal 6-3-0-16-1, J P Stephenson 5-0-20-2.

Vodafone Challenge Series

Durham v South Africa

REVERSHAM (Day 1 of 3):

Durham won toss

SOUTH AFRICA - First Innings

G Kirsten b Betts.....13 0 1 40 52

G F Liebenberg b Collingwood.....85 0 10 182 369

D L Maddy not out.....37 0 27 274 336

W J Cronje c Gough b Betts.....33 0 4 94 97

J N Rhodes not out.....0 0 0 1 4

Extras.....0

Total (For 3, 55.1 overs).....362

Falls: 1-45, 2-115, 3-347.

Did not bat: M M McMillan, M Hayward, M V Boucher, P L Wood 21-4-86-0, N C Phillips 14-2-48-0, P D Collingwood 20-1-65-1, M A Gough 2-0-4-0.

DURHAM - First Innings

J J B Lewis not out.....3 0 0 20 28

A Gough not out.....8 0 1 22 29

Extras (lb1).....1

Total (For 0, 7 overs).....10

To bat: N J Snel, P C Boon, P D Collingwood, J A Daley.

Umpires:

SPORT

ENGLAND'S WIN-ONLY CRICKET CAPTAIN P28 • BATTERED BOARDMAN'S LUCKY ESCAPE P25

Playing Ronaldo was 'absurd'

FOOTBALL

BY MARK BURTON
AND JEREMY LAURANCE

ARED carpet was rolled out and a trip to the presidential palace laid on, but it was not the homecoming that had been planned for Brazil's World Cup team. The traditional triumphant parade of Brazilian sporting heroes riding on a fire engine was not required; a coach sufficed for the beaten finalists when they trooped off their

plane in Brasilia after the long flight home from France.

However, any criticism centred not on tactics or player performances but on the decision to ask Ronaldo to play in the final hours after he had suffered a fit. That attitude was shared by Massimo Moratti, the owner of Ronaldo's Italian club Internazionale. He accused the Brazilian federation of behaving "in an absurd manner". "Its actions could have had much more serious consequences. Now I only hope that Ronaldo has the

chance to rest, because he was put under unusual pressure."

There was sympathy for that view from the British medical profession. Dr Alfred Medagoda, of the David Lewis Centre for Epilepsy in Cheshire, said that exposing the player to further risk of injury by making him play in the final was potentially dangerous. "He would be likely to have felt dazed and confused for some time, depending on whether it was a major or minor fit. Anyone who has had a fit should be rested.

It can add to the original injury to continue playing," he said.

Adrian Williams, professor of clinical neurology at Birmingham University, said that if Ronaldo had suffered a mild seizure, he found it difficult to believe that the medical advice would have been for him to play. It is not yet clear what caused Ronaldo to have the fit. Dr Medagoda suggested that blows to the head that any footballer will suffer shake the brain and could trigger a seizure. An alternative view was that stress,

exacerbated by a build-up in nervous tension ahead of such an important match, could have generated the problem.

Professor Cary Cooper, the head of psychology at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, believes the Brazilian's predicament was symptomatic of the pressure felt by the world's best young players. "You can have a mild fit if you are put under enormous pressure and stress," he said. "Just think about all the pressure

which had been placed on Ronaldo's shoulders by the media, the fans, commercial demands. If you put these kinds of pressure on young and talented players it is going to have an effect."

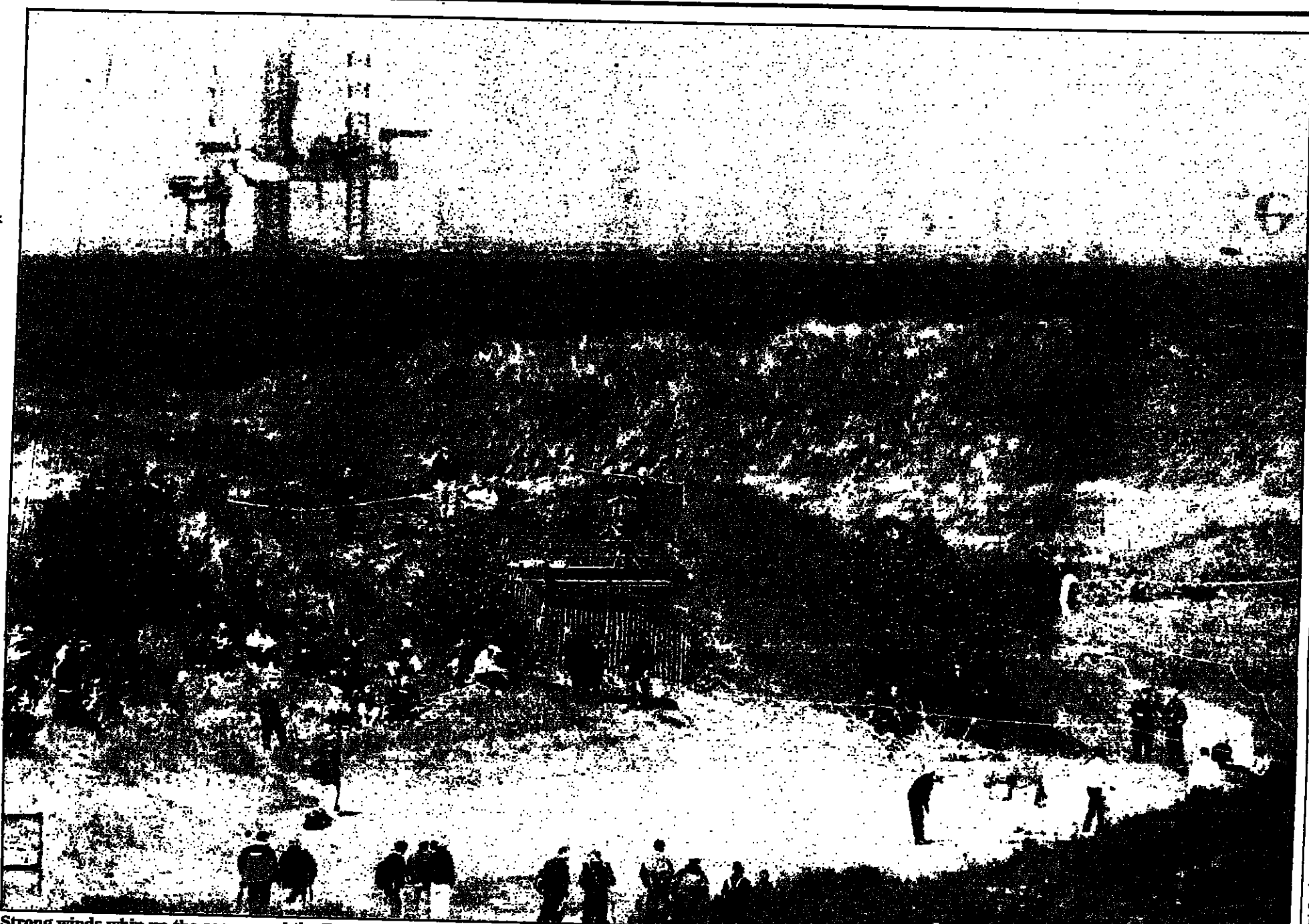
A person's own view can be different, Ronaldo once said: "You can cope with all the difficulties that life presents when you are young." That attitude may be essential in a player who aims to make it to the top. But perhaps Ronaldo's problems on Sunday should serve as a warning to

others, like Michael Owen, England's 18-year-old striker, who is due to come face to face with the Brazilian when Liverpool play Inter in a pre-season match on 4 August.

Fifa, world football's governing body, made rule changes to protect the quick, skilful, entertaining players like Ronaldo and Owen from physical damage at France 98, but Keith Cooper, their communications director, said it was up to national teams to look after themselves. Fifa was prepared

to advise any team on any medical problem. "But," he said, "I think if you go and play in the World Cup, you must expect to come under a certain amount of stress." He said that although it was not clear what had happened to Ronaldo, "the fact remains that France won 3-0. Ronaldo played and he looked fit on the field."

England and France shared the Fifa Fair Play Award for the World Cup finals and each will receive £16m-worth of equipment for youth football.



Strong winds whip up the sea around the Royal Birkdale course yesterday as the players go about their practice session on the 11th green

David Ashdown

Beckham is cause for concern

BY MARK PIERSON

DAVID BECKHAM reported for pre-season training with Manchester United yesterday amid growing concern over how supporters will treat him in the coming months.

Beckham's father, Ted, was reported yesterday to have voiced fears over how his son might react to continuing criticism of his role in England's World Cup second round game against Argentina. Beckham was sent off in the game, which England lost on penalties.

Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, has already called for extra security when his team travel to West Ham for their first away Premiership match of the season on 22 August.

West Ham supporters are planning to 'taunt' Beckham with 10,000 red cards, while an effigy of him has been strung up outside a London pub. A banner reading "Beckham: August 22 = hell" was found pinned to the main gates of Upton Park last week.

The Professional Footballers' Association said yesterday that it would be "extremely grateful" if Beckham were hounded out of Britain by critical supporters. Brendan Batson, the PFA's deputy chief executive, also said that Beckham's departure would be a

huge loss to the domestic game.

"It would be sad to think that because of other people's reactions, a player would feel he is no longer welcome here," he said. "Most right-minded supporters and football lovers do not want to see a player as talented as him go."

"We want to see our best players here rather than watch them on television playing somewhere else. It would be an extremely spiteful campaign to do that against a player like Beckham."

Manchester United are trying to defuse the situation and are keen to play down the affair. But it is clear that Ferguson faces his biggest man-management test since he persuaded Eric Cantona not to turn his back on football after his ban in 1995.

Ferguson is becoming irritated by the continued furor and he told ClubCo: "We want to get David out training, get back to the football and forget all the hype and nonsense which has been said."

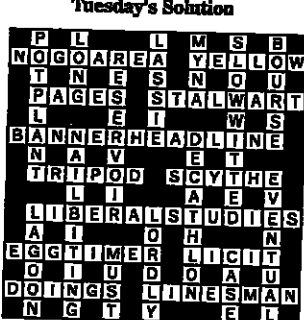
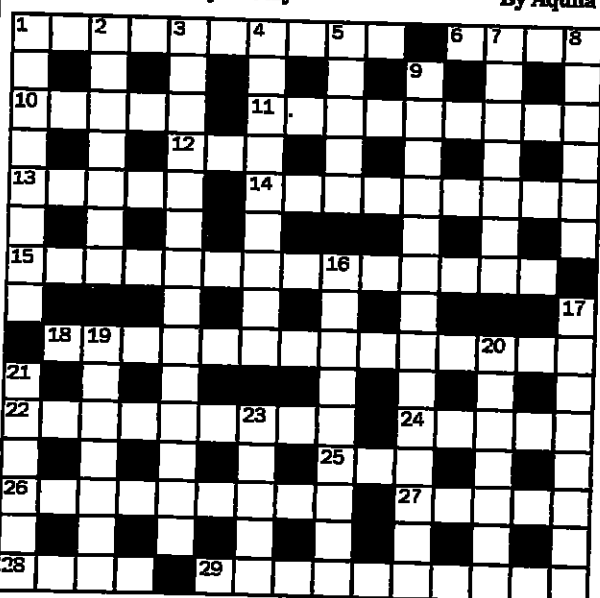
Ferguson has said all along that he would ease his players from the World Cup back into action and it is expected Beckham will make his reappearance during United's three-game Scandinavian tour, which starts at the end of this month.

THE WEDNESDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3663, Wednesday 15 July

By Aquila

Tuesday's Solution



- ACROSS**
- Watch works in case pest menace is out of control (10)
 - Trunk upright at bow of vessel (4)
 - Right oven to cook joint (5)
 - Lot can run freely by night (9)
 - Cause to worry swallow (3)
 - Epitaph beside cathedral town (5)
 - Relaxed for smooth departure? (4-5)
 - Faint Lady? (5,9)
 - Workers come out in them as lynx, say, attacks (7,7)
 - That can be repositioned in theatre (9)

- Many fancy split segment of bulb (5)
- Inflamed in French bed (3)
- Polish piece of opaline so roughly (9)
- Plonker, I do it the wrong way (5)
- Understand male is to appear (4)
- "Celebrities" put years on one (9)

- DOWN**
- A murder's planned, we hear (8)
 - Coriolanus opening inclined to be inhibited (7)
 - Clear linctus, for example, available without prescription (6,8)
 - Matzo menu — unusual for an Aztec emperor (9)
 - Chips in jugs (5)
 - Alice's illustrator, lenient sort (7)
 - Disparage male dress in the army (6)
 - Common break from school? (6,8)
 - Garish flat (9)
 - A distress signal about hardest incombustible material (9)
 - Baby glued in position? (7)
 - Monarch very soon swallowed by (7)
 - Greek caricatures of wine-producers (6)
 - Young fellows heard in a state capital (5)

Woods warming to the challenge

GOLF

BY ANDY FARRELL
at Royal Birkdale

TIGER WOODS will not be attacking the 127th Open with all barrels blazing, despite giving a remarkable demonstration of how he can harness the elements to overpower the toughest of golf courses. In his first practice round on Monday, Woods almost drove the green at the 457-yard eighth hole.

Obviously the hole was playing downwind — with gusts up to 45mph — and, turning in the opposite direction to play the seventh hole, the powerful Woods could hit his three-iron no more than 153 yards. "Tiger hits his nine-iron that distance in normal conditions," Mark O'Meara, his practice partner, said. "They said it was a two-club wind, but that was a little more than a two-club wind."

At the eighth, which doglegs slightly to the left, the 22-year-old Woods took aim over the sand dunes and came up eight yards short of the green. "It was the biggest shot I've ever seen — and it didn't hit a cart path," O'Meara said.

"The strongest parts of Tiger's game are his driving and his ability to get out of trouble. If he is driving well, my advice to him would be to go for it. Why not?"

But Woods, whose course management has been criticised in major championships since winning the Masters last

year, is unlikely to stick to the policy once he has a scorecard in hand tomorrow. "It was just something for a bit of fun just to see how far I could hit it," he admitted.

Woods averaged 294 yards on the US PGA Tour last year, eight yards short of John Daly, who became the first man to average over 300 in a year. Two years before winning the 1995 Open at St Andrews, Daly recorded another huge hit in practice at Sandwich when he drove the green at the 405-yard fifth hole, cutting the corner at the dogleg left.

Nick Faldo will not be featuring in any long-driving records this week — he was out-driven by 62-year-old Gary Player at the first hole — but the three-times champion was encouraged by his first full practice round after injuring his elbow last week at Loch Lomond.

"I'm pleased and surprised," Faldo said. "I am about 80 per cent fit. The elbow was a little achy this morning but I didn't feel it over the last six holes, despite hitting a couple of proper divots. It must have clunked back into place or maybe it was warmed up by signing 200 autographs before the round."

Faldo teed up his ball on the fairway at the second hole. "That's against the rules," someone shouted. "I've got a medical note," Faldo replied. "I'm allowed."

He then knocked his ball into the semi-rough to play

from a cushioned lie and continued the policy for most of the round. Whether his elbow, on which he has had intensive physiotherapy and ultra-sound treatment for the last week, can stand up to playing out of the thicker rough went untested. "I haven't been in the thick stuff," he said. "I'm saving that for tomorrow."

Faldo will play with O'Meara in the first two rounds. Defending champion Justin Leonard has been paired with fellow American David Duval and Dane Thomas Bjorn, while Ernie Els and Tom Lehman were drawn together. But it was a largely uninspiring draw and one that leaves Lee Westwood playing with Brad Faxon and Namibia's Trevor Dodds.

Scot Hoch, the American who has often missed the Open and once criticised St Andrews as only fit for sheep, plays with Steve Elkington and Patrik Sjöland. Hoch, who missed a two-footer when he only needed to putt it to beat Faldo in the 1989 Masters, now has a clause in a sponsor's contract saying he has to play in all the majors.

But he is here under duress. "The tradition of the tournament doesn't mean anything to me compared to the States," Hoch said. "This is just my type of weather. I'm a hot weather player and I don't like the cold. If I had not been contracted to be here, I don't know whether I would have been here or not."

Taming the Tiger, page 24

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INSIDE	Letters	2	Arts	10-11	Secretarial	19-20	FINANCE
	Leaders and comment	3-5	Fashion	12-13	Radio	23	
	Obituaries	6-7	Money	14-15	Satellite TV	23	
	Features	8-9	Finance	16-18	Today's TV	24	

0800 016 919 **World Society for the Protection of Animals**

INDEX

HOME NEWS

PAGES 2-11

BBC newsreaders in uproar

The BBC's leading newsreaders are in uproar because the corporation is refusing to renew their contracts before planned changes to its news programmes.

Page 7

New PR sell for the Dome

Some of Labour's favourite PR men have been drafted in to help sell the Millennium Dome as part of a £29m marketing campaign.

Page 5

FOREIGN NEWS

PAGES 12-15

UN delegation arrives in Algeria

A high-level United Nations delegation arrived in Algeria last night for a two-week mission that offers the outside world its best hope yet of learning the truth about the savagery and human rights abuses committed in a six-year civil war, which has taken at least 65,000 lives.

Page 13

Asian ministers face up to crisis

Asian foreign ministers meet in the Philippines this week in an atmosphere of economic crisis, political uncertainty and growing rearmament toward Japan. Foreign ministers from the nine countries of Asean (Association of South-East Asian Nations), including Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand, will begin formal deliberations on Friday after the region's most difficult year since the Second World War.

Page 12

SPORTS NEWS

PAGES 22-28

Everton chase after Dacot

Everton are hoping to sign the French midfielder Olivier Dacot in a £5m transfer from Strasbourg, while Crystal Palace are willing to pay £2.5m for two Argentinians - Christian Ledesma and Pablo Rodriguez.

Page 28

Gymnast paralysed at Games

A 17-year-old Chinese gymnast was paralysed from the neck down after falling during the warm-up for the vault event on the third day of the Goodwill Games in New York. Sang Lan, China's champion women's vaulter, broke two vertebrae in her back.

Page 25

THURSDAY REVIEW

20-PAGE BROADSHEET SECTION

David Aaronovitch

"How can we now argue against the outing of senior members of the Church of England, on the basis that their sexuality is their own business? No, by God, let's have them outed. And then let's chuck them out."

Page 3

Hamish McRae

"It can be very hard when you are in the middle of a revolution to realise quite what is happening, but we are. I think, in the middle of one now, one that occurs only every couple of hundred years."

Page 4

Bidisha

"Willing gentlemen are delivered to the girl's door for her delectation or rejection. She might meet someone she likes, or she might change her mind about the whole thing. It is no different from, and a lot safer than, placing a lonely hearts ad in Time Out."

Page 4

Andrew Marshall

"The American economy is motoring along as well as it has done since the Sixties, and people just aren't that bothered by the things that the politicians would like to them to care about. Like politics. Things seem fine; why vote? This 'What me, worry?' attitude has put the President at the top of the opinion polls, and probably will keep him there."

Page 5

Letters	2	Film	11-12
Leaders and comment	3-5	Fast Track	14
Law Report	5	Listings	17-18
Obituaries	6-7	Radio, Satellite TV	19
Features	8-9	Concise crossword	19
Arts	10	Today's TV	20

Cryptic crossword, section one, page 28



The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Carey, opens his arms in welcome to the 739 Anglican bishops at the Lambeth Conference David Rose

Bishops cancel gay event

A PRESENTATION by a group of

ordained lesbian, gay and bi-

sexual Christians to the Lam-

beth Conference of Bishops,

scheduled for today, has been

cancelled at the last minute in

the face of fierce opposition

from senior clergy.

The decision to repress the

presentation was taken at a

section meeting on Tuesday night

which took place behind closed

doors. One bishop asked why, if

they were discussing homo-

SEXUALITY, they were not dis-

cussing bestiality and child

abuse, too.

The Bishop of Johannes-

burg, the Rt Rev Duncan

Buchanan, who had arranged

the presentation, was said to be

"shell shocked" by the extreme

reaction.

The Rev Colin Coward, an

openly gay priest who runs

Changing Attitudes, the or-

ganisation invited to do the

presentation, said yesterday:

"The meeting last night was so

traumatic that it was decided by

Duncan Buchanan that the

presentation wouldn't work.

"He was deeply emotionally

affected by the strength and fer-

ocity of feelings and the dy-

namic of the group."

The presentation was to

have been by 20 ordained gay

and lesbian Christians, seven of

whom were going to speak of

their personal experiences. Af-

terwards there was going to be

up to 45 minutes of question-

ing. However, Bishops at the

section meeting voted two-thirds

in favour of cancelling today's

presentation.

The Rt Rev John Spong, the

ultra-liberal Bishop of Newark,

New Jersey, said it was a dis-

couraging meeting. "Sixty bish-

ops voted Duncan Buchanan

down and they don't even want

to talk to gays. One African bish-

op said 'Why don't we discuss

bestiality and child abuse if

we're going to discuss homo-

sexuality?'"

"They impugned the in-

tegrity of Duncan Buchanan."

A Conservative American

bishop said: "Several bishops

said that if there were to be ho-

mosexuals speaking we should

also have people who live a cel-

ibate lifestyle, or have been

healed of homosexuality."

Lockerbie trial may start next week

THE LIBYANS could be asked to

hand over two Lockerbie bomb-

ing suspects for trial in The

Hague as early as next week.

Foreign Office sources said

last night.

As Downing Street con-

firmed that Tony Blair had had

talks with President Bill Clin-

ton about the idea, it emerged

that officials were tying up final

BY FRANK ABRAMS
Political Correspondent

details of a deal. Although they

stressed that there was still

some way to go, the negotia-

tions between the UK, the US

and Holland could break a

deadlock over the issue.

At Prime Minister's Ques-

tion Time, Mr Blair said the issue

was complex and added: "We've

got to make sure that any so-

lution we come up with is fully

consistent with our absolute

commitment to the integrity of

the Scottish judicial system."

Britain and the US have

maintained that two Libyans

charged with the Pan Am

bombing in December 1988

which killed 270 people should

be tried in Scotland or the US.

Libya has argued that the men

would not get a fair trial.

The latest suggestion, put by

The Foreign Secretary Robin

Cook to the American Secre-

tary of State Madeleine Albright

at Christmas, would see the men

tried in The Hague under Scot-

tish law by five judges, one of

them Scottish.

The Government is under

pressure to bring the case to

court because of several factors,

trade being one, but if nothing

happens before the Scottish

Parliament is set up in the year

2,000, its members may pass a

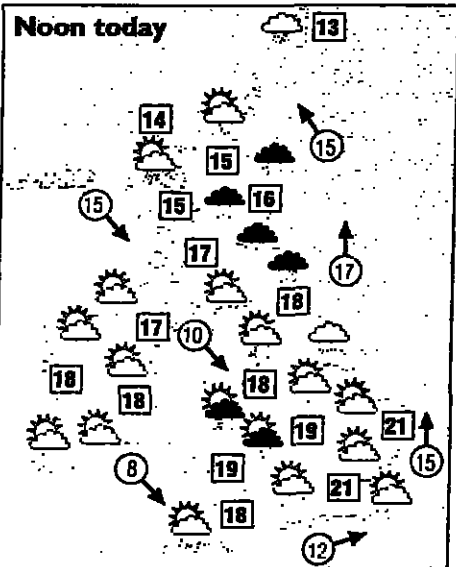
Bill allowing the case to be

tried in The Hague, which

would put them into conflict

with the English Parliament.

BRITAIN TODAY



OUTLOOK

Eastern Scotland and north-east England will have some rain this morning, but it will become brighter this afternoon. Western Scotland and Northern Ireland will have sunny breaks and a scattering of showers. Wales and north-west England will have a showery morning, but it will become drier and brighter for the afternoon. South-east England and East Anglia will have some sunshine at first. However, showers across the south-west and the Midlands will spread eastwards later.

NEXT FEW DAYS

England and Wales will be largely dry tomorrow with some sunshine at times. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be breezy with frequent showers and longer spells of rain in the far north of Scotland. There will be warm sunshine for most parts on Saturday but cloud and rain will move into the west towards evening. The dry, warm weather may hold on in the south-east on Sunday, but everywhere else will be cloudy with outbreaks of rain.

LIGHTING UP TIMES

	Belfast	Birmingham	Bristol	Glasgow	London	Manchester	Newcastle
21.40	21.14	21.12	21.02	21.20	21.25	21.25	21.25
05.20	05.14	05.22	05.07	05.11	05.01	05.01	05.01

HIGH TIDES

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London	02:18	6.8	14:43	6.8
Liverpool	11:56	9.1	00:18	9.4
Astonmough	07:53	12.7	20:12	12.9
Hull	06:53	8.4	19:20	8.4
Greenock			13:30	3.2
Dun Laoghaire	12:18	4.0	00:39	4.3

AIR QUALITY

	Today's readings	NO _x	Pollen	O ₃
London	Good	High	Good	Good
S. England	Good	High	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Moderate	Good	Good
C. England	Good	High	Good	Good
N. England	Good	Moderate	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Low/Mid	Good	Good
N. Ireland	Good	Moderate	Good	Good

SUN & MOON

Sun rises:	05.11
Sun sets:	21.02
Moon rises:	05.08
Moon sets:	20.47
New Moon:	Today

WEATHERLINE

	For the latest forecasts	Go to
London	Good	Good
S. England	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good
C. England	Good	Good
N. England	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good
N. Ireland	Good	Good

YESTERDAY

BRITISH ISLES WEATHER

Most recent available figure at noon local time.
KEY: Cloudy; Clear; Rain; Fog; Haze; M. Mist; R. Rain; S. Sunny; Sh. Showers; Sn. Snow; Th. Thunder.

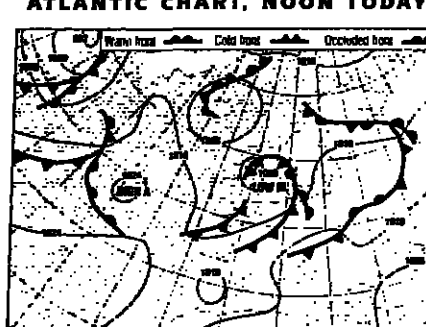
	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	17	63	17
Birmingham	16	61	16
Bristol	17	63	17
Manchester	16	61	16
Cardiff	16	61	16
Edinburgh	14	57	14
Glasgow	15	59	15
Newcastle	16	61	16
Sheffield	16	61	16
Southampton	16	61	16
Swansea	16	61	16
Wolverhampton	16	61	16
York	16	61	16

AIR QUALITY

	Today's readings	NO _x	Pollen	O ₃
London	Good	High	Good	Good
S. England	Good	High	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Moderate	Good	Good
C. England	Good	High	Good	Good
N. England	Good	Moderate	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Low/Mid	Good	Good
N. Ireland	Good	Moderate	Good	Good

THE WORLD

ATLANTIC CHART, NOON TODAY



THE WORLD YESTERDAY

	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Algeria	32	90	32
Alexandria	29	84	29
Amman	28	82	28
Baghdad	32	92	32
Bahia	28	84	28
Bombay	32	92	32
Buenos Aires	28	84	28
Calcutta	32	92	32
Cairo	32	92	32
Cardiff	16	61	16
Chennai	32	92	32
Cebu	32	92	32
Dhaka	32	92	32
Dubai	32	92	32
Edinburgh	14	57	14
Glasgow	15	59	15
Hong Kong	32	92	32
Kuala Lumpur	32	92	32
London	17	63	17
Los Angeles	32	92	32
Manila	32	92	32
Medan	32	92	32
Mumbai	32	92	32
Nairobi	32	92	32
Rangoon	32	92	32
Seoul	32	92	32
Singapore	32	92	32
Sydney	32	92	32
Taipei	32	92	32
Tokyo	32	92	32
Winnipeg	32	92	32
Zurich	32	92	32

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Money is welcome, but what about the teachers and nurses?

YESTERDAY WAS a defining moment for Tony Blair's New Labour Government, the day when it finally broke its umbilical link with Thatcherism. After more than two decades of rolling back the state, there was a declaration of support for the public sector. And given its decrepit state, and the dreadful morale among many of its employees, it is welcome to hear such a positive tone being taken – although it hardly required a crystal ball to see that the Government would make priorities of spending on health and education. It had, after all, spent two years and an election campaign saying precisely that.

Calling this a Comprehensive Spending Review, however, is a misnomer. The CSR has been valuable, but it is about reordering priorities within existing spending parameters. Spending an extra £21bn on the NHS is all very welcome. But there is a danger of blundering into an ever growing state and undoing much of the good work of the Eighties – ironically, at a time when most of Europe is following Britain's lead. The Chancellor has tried to square the public spending circle by managing, all at the same time, to increase public spending, keep taxes down, maintain both the image and reality of fiscal prudence and (in line with his unfulfilled political ambition) remain recognisably "socialist" in his actions.

So after 14 months, we now know how the Government wishes to be seen. And it is clear that New Labour is certainly not Conservatism in different clothes. If this illusive Third Way can ever be defined, the Government came closest yesterday. For the Conservatives, the state was something to be sold off – or ignored. Gordon Brown showed that New Labour believes in the power of the state to do good, which is why he is putting more money into the priority areas. That, though, poses another question. Up to yesterday, every one of the Government's vaunted spending initiatives has been a mirage – no extra money, but a reallocation of existing resources. Although yesterday's plans do indeed reveal significant extra spending, the caveats accompanying some of the announcements – that they are dependent upon efficiency gains, for instance – mean that the figures should not be taken at face value. Nonetheless, there are some real increases in spending.

And therein lies the worry. As the baseball player Yogi Berra once said, "this is déjà vu all over again". How often before have we heard spurious claims that spending is to be financed out of growth? By tying the public finances to a three-year plan he is banking on today's



economic prosperity lasting at least another 36 months. Many sober judges argue that this is at best unlikely. If recession takes hold – even if there is a soft landing – there will be a double-whammy of increased unemployment pay and decreased tax revenue. The extra public spending will need to be paid for, and, with borrowing ruled out, that can only mean putting up taxes.

Given the resistance to increased taxation, this could undermine Labour's chances of a second term. There is one other familiar flaw in this review. The simplistic notion that capital spending is good, current spending bad, has been wheeled out for another airing. But we can have all the shining schools and hospitals in the

world; without teachers and doctors and nurses they are useless. There is a fine line to be drawn between a proper check on public sector pay and a sensible reward to state employees. The shortage of decent teachers and the dearth of applicants for nursing shows the truth of the adage that if you pay peanuts you get monkeys. Somehow we need to make such jobs attractive for people of the highest calibre, and revive the lure of working in the public sector. The Chancellor's strictures will only hinder this.

The Government has had a year in which it could claim to be finding its feet. Yesterday it started to walk. The direction it is taking is now a little clearer, but not much.

Don't ignore Hague and his Tory party

IT IS easy to jeer. Focus groups worked for a seemingly unelectable Labour Party, so it is little wonder that a debilitated and hated Conservative Party has turned to them as well. Back in the Eighties, when Neil Kinnock still had all his hair, the then opposition came up with "Labour Listens". As it turned out, the only people it ended up listening to were the very Labour Party members whose distance from normality caused the party's decline in the first place. When the Tories start "Listening to Britain" they need to be sure that it is indeed Britain who is speaking, rather than the strange minority who are willing to give up an evening to speak to a Conservative Party official.

So William Hague's task is not to win in 2002, but to put the party in a position to win in 2007. And he has made a solid start. He has transformed the party's constitution, begun to reform Central Office and quietly ditched some of its more unpopular policies. By setting up a commission on reforming the House of Lords, the Leader of the Opposition has shown a readiness to adopt the traditional Conservative response to constitutional reform: outflanking the proponents. Although his public profile is somewhere between non-existent and derisory, Mr Hague has won plaudits from business people and party workers and regularly bests the Prime Minister in the Commons. Last week he made him look shifty, incompetent and ill at ease – a pretty impressive performance. The Government's contempt for the Commons has led many commentators to write off Parliament as well, but they are too hasty. If he carries on shining in the Commons, Mr Hague will not only undermine the Prime Minister, he will also – almost more important – give his demoralised party some confidence.

The new Shadow Cabinet looks promising. Francis Maude has both teeth and brains, while his lacklustre predecessor as shadow Chancellor, Peter Lilley, is far more suited to overseeing the party's policy review. David Willetts is more than capable of giving David Blunkett a hard time, and Liam Fox provides some glamour. And by putting some of the more talented of the 1997 intake – such as Damian Green and Theresa May – straight on to the Front Bench, with the likes of Andrew Tyrie in reserve as licensed free thinkers, Mr Hague is making best use of the talents available, though the Tories cannot afford to waste a talent such as Ken Clarke. William Hague may be a figure of fun today. But two years ago Mr Blair was nicknamed "Bambi". The Tories' problems need more than a cocked ear, but they should certainly not be written off.

Can Britain revive the Victorian spirit of pride in public service?

"THE JULY measures" hang like a curse over Labour public spending plans. No, not these July measures, or at least not yet; rather the fact that when Labour was in office in the Sixties and Seventies its public spending plans were periodically devastated by a July financial crisis.

The government would announce an increase in public spending to be paid for the electorate was assured, by improved economic growth. Everyone would cheer. Then, a couple of years down the line, growth would not be quite as good as forecast and sterling would be hit by a bout of speculation. This usually came in July because, it seemed, dealers wanted to square their books before they went off on holiday. The government would respond with a crisis package of cuts in public spending – the infamous July measures. There were several such packages, the most extreme of which came in 1966 when the National Plan was junked, and in 1976, when the cuts were too timid to satisfy the markets and the country had to go cap-in-hand to the IMF later that autumn, introducing yet further cuts.

So the immediate question that needs to be answered is: is Gordon Brown slipping into the mould of former Labour chancellors?

There is a second and wider question. Those cuts of 1976 marked the high point of public spending in the UK. Since that peak, of nearly 48 per cent of GDP, the long-term trend of public spending has been down. The long and often painful process of downsizing the public sector started under a Labour government. More recently other countries have started also cutting the

proportion of GDP that passes through the tax and social security net, gradually passing more and more activities back to the private sector. So the question is whether, under these new plans, Labour is simply trying to reverse the process it began by piling in more money where this seems to be needed. Or whether it is trying to lift the performance of public services so that confidence is rebuilt and a further shift to the private sector can be avoided.

First, is this July expansion a prelude to July cuts? It is tough to say it, but I fear the chances that the Government will be able to sustain these spending plans are no better than even.

You have to assume that the plans themselves will indeed stick: that there will be no cost overruns on the "investment" side and that there will be no overruns on the wages front. These are extremely hairy assumptions given what has happened to big spending projects in the past and the extent to which public sector wages have been held down. Of course it is possible that the various projects will come in on cost; it is possible that the clamp on wages can be maintained. But things have to turn out towards the better end of the likely range.

Now ask about the revenue side. The assumptions here look equally hairy. Take growth: after a slowdown this year, growth has to climb back to 2.25 per cent through the early years of the next century. If growth is below that, then revenues will be lower. So if there is a post-millennial recession you can forget the whole thing. If there are more than about 18 months of below-trend growth there will be tremendous



HAMISH MCRAE
Gordon Brown's message is clear: whingeing is no longer acceptable in the state sector

pressure on public finances. Either borrowing will have to rise, which will push the Government's claims for fiscal probity out of the window; or taxes will have to go up; or these spending plans will have to be cut.

The Government's run of luck may continue. Trouble is, it is just when you need a bit of luck that things are liable to go pear-shaped.

At least we will know the answer by the next election. On the bigger question, whether by spending more money you can really lift the public sector's game, the outcome will not be clear for a decade or more. An electorate can choose more or less any size of public sector it wants provided it is prepared to pay the taxes, but in practice the proportion seems to range from between one-third and two-thirds. In Sweden it is more than 60 per cent (and was over 70 per cent in 1993); in the US it is 32 per cent. We are in the middle of the

pack at 40 per cent. Does Gordon Brown's "money for modernisation" proposition mean that we can hold it there, or will the long-term trend established in Britain since 1976 (and overall in the industrial world since 1983) prove too strong?

The answer lies in the hands of the people who manage the health care and education industries. There is little dispute that modern societies both want and need to spend a higher proportion of their income on health and education. In that sense the Chancellor's priorities match those of all developed countries. It was fascinating to hear yesterday his repeated use of words such as "modernisation", "targets" and "reform". You can turn the words on their heads and point out that this was recognising the way in which these great state industries had failed sufficiently to modernise, set targets or reform themselves. They were, it was implied, still producer-driven organisations, churning out the service they thought was appropriate, rather than responding to what their consumers demanded.

Up to now these industries have had a convenient excuse: they were starved of cash by a hostile government. I saw a notice at a London Tube station a few months ago saying that it had suspended its escalator refurbishment programme because it had run out of cash. No private sector organisation would dare blurt to its customers that it had no money to improve its service. But in the public sector this was not just acceptable: it was thought helpful to its case for more taxpayers' money. "We know we are lousy, but it's not our fault."

Gordon Brown's clear message is that this sort of whingeing will no longer be acceptable. The cash is there – or at least some extra cash is there. In return these state industries have to change their mind-set, the leopards have to change their spots.

If they do, then the British public sector can be preserved in pretty much its present shape and size. Labour, having started the downsizing of the public sector, will have stabilised the process. Something of the Victorian sense of public service embedded in most of us will be revived and re-created. But it will be difficult because there is not that much more money, expectations are high, and the demands of the customers will continue to rise.

If they do not, then they will gradually find their relations sour with both Government and more important, their customers. It is perfectly possible to ensure a high quality service and reasonable access for disadvantaged people without the service itself being provided by a state industry. Other countries will continue to experiment with innovative ways of providing ever better health and education services, and of guaranteeing wider access to these.

It is a big bet that Gordon Brown is making. If the electorate finds that public sector has as a result of this spending programme radically lifted its game, then the Government gets much of the credit. If on the other hand the improvements are not generally apparent, or if the spending plans are "blown off course" – that was the phrase used to excuse the July measures – you know who gets the blame.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"People who do not like food are uninteresting. People who live on a lettuce leaf are too light-headed for conversation"
Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, soprano

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"You have not converted a man because you have silenced him."
Lord Morley, British politician and writer

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"IN BRAZIL'S worst World Cup final defeat ever, Ronaldo was not Ronaldo. He was just a scared 21-year-old kid. The official explanations for Ronaldo's off-day ranged from apparent lies to the ridiculous. The pre-match medical attributed it to his ankle. The France 98 information system blamed his calf. But all week in practice, Ronaldo had been complaining about his knee. After the match the Brazil team doctor said the star had had an upset stomach. Or was it just a third-degree case of sweaty palms?"
Los Angeles Times

"Ronaldo's face is still marked by fear. White and terrified. It is awful to hear what happened, in the Jamin clinic and at the stadium. It is like one of those dark, Gothic TV ads that are so fashionable: the hero goes to hell and back. Except that Ronaldo really experienced the hell of terror. The one certainty is that Ronaldo is no longer a Martian; he is now a vulnerable and very human boy. Perhaps his psychologist will stop sticking a picture of Ayrton Senna up in his room, a picture which, it should be said, is not up to much as good luck charms go. Perhaps

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
Reaction to Ronaldo's lack of form in the World Cup final



now... they'll give him time to recover properly. Because if they don't they'll lose him."
La Repubblica, Italy

Even a brain tumour? Whatever the cause, he should never have been allowed on the pitch, or at least pulled off after 15 minutes when it was clear he wasn't following the game. The effects are similar to receiving a strong electric charge: heartbeat and

breathing are accelerated, dilated pupils, tremors in the hands, legs, lips and tongue, and then afterwards feeling like a flat battery. After a convulsion, the body aches, the head aches, you feel sleepy; your central nervous system is affected and motor co-ordination impaired – which is terrible for an athlete."
O Globo, Brazil

FROM THE moment the defending world champions stepped on to the pitch they looked as if they really didn't want to be there... Brazil proved my suspicion that they

really are a one-man team because without a fit Ronaldo they never even looked like scoring when the hosts were down to 10 men."
Times of India

RONALDO WAS a virtual passenger in the most important game of his career, and Brazil never looked capable of performing without him. Mario Zagallo would later concede that the uncertainty surrounding Ronaldo had not only disrupted his team but drained their confidence as well.
Sydney Morning Herald

Handwritten signature: محمد صالح المنجد

PANDORA

"WE ARE in touch and in tune with the new Government, but more importantly we are in touch and in tune with the times." So goes the sales brochure for Lawson Lucas Mendelsohn, one of the lobbying firms at the heart of the "cronygate" controversy. Pandora suggests that the last phrase could just as easily have read "but more importantly we are in touch and in tune with The Times". And even *The Sun*? Yes, one of LLM's major clients is none other than Rupert Murdoch's News International.

When Pandora rang LLM to discuss this, it was stonewall time, but a list of LLM's clients includes News International, along with the Audit Commission, the Local Government Association, the National House Building Council and major corporations such as Tesco, Ladbrokes and Anglian Water. There are many reasons why News International might choose an "in-touch" and "in-tune" lobbying firm. Most recently, for example, there was the Predatory Pricing amendment to the Competition Bill. The Government ultimately voted that down in the committee stage. Good work, lads.

TROUBLE IS brewing at the RAC. Pandora has learned that one of the handful of "lady executive members" is contemplating a lawsuit to force the RAC to allow women to share in the £450m flotation windfall that the 12,000 male club members expect to receive (£35,000 apiece) when the roadside services division is sold off. It seems that current female members, some of whom pay the same dues as male members, are not considered to have "full memberships".

Although a High Court judge recently upheld this interpretation, some legal experts believe that the women have a strong case for sharing in the booty, or at least for gaining a rebate on their membership fees. After all, the RAC decided last November to allow female members to become "full members" and to enjoy the widest possible benefits of the club.

IT SEEMS that two New Labour ministers, both strongly mooted as potential candidates for London's mayor, can only demonstrate the contempt for rucksack abuse. First Glenda Jackson,

Minister for London Transport, and now Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, have thumbed their noses at the Anti-Rucksack On The Tube Campaign. Like Glenda, Tony refused to speak to us directly. Instead a spokeswoman at the Culture Media & Sport press office told Pandora, "He [Banks] said that he would call you back if he wanted to participate. He obviously hasn't." Glenda and Tony, obviously you have forgotten something. We elected you "to participate" in exactly these kind of pernicious social problems that you seem to be avoiding, not to hide behind your PR flacks while you chafe over your own dreary prospects in the coming reshuffle.

NEVER UNDERESTIMATE the cunning of Britain's rucksack louts. As the pressure from our campaign begins to be felt on the capital's Underground system, we have heard reports of selfish oafs wearing just one shoulder strap attached, thus turning their rucksacks into bogus shoulder-bags. This dodge will not wash! Amongst the deluge of mail received in the past 10 days, many readers have urged us to broaden the crusade in order to include shoulder-bags. The campaign agrees. Rucksacks can easily pose as shoulder-bags, and both ought to be hand-carried in crowded public spaces instead of being used as battering-rams. While this year's campaign remains unchanged, we will operate under the aegis of a new organisation: Citizens Concerned With Worn Luggage (CCWWL). Plans for a National Rucksack Awareness Day are proceeding apace.

THE BLAIRS' summer holiday is approaching and political hacks everywhere are watching to see just how the PM slips out of what appears to be a Gordian knot. Will he, Cherie and the kids (below) return, for the third year in a row, to Tuscany to relax in the Paymaster General Geoffrey Robertson's splendid villa? If so, Blair opens himself to charges of "consorting with his old crony Robertson". On the other hand, if the Blair choose to holiday somewhere in, say, Umbria, the headlines will surely read "Blair dumps Robertson".



Is Drumcree the Orangemen's Alamo?



DAVID
MCKITTRICK
*A menacing weapon
has been removed
from the extremist
loyalist armoury*

THE PATHETIC scenes at yesterday's funerals of the three Quinn boys in Rasharkin, County Antrim, would have melted the heart of a stone. Ballymoney joins the long, sad litany of places visited by death, where lives are taken and those of the survivors ruined. Nothing can bring the boys back, but it is possible to believe that their deaths will, unlike most deaths, help to break down divisions.

Drumcree '98 was awful in terms of death and damage to Northern Ireland's community relations, economy and image. But it was also a defeat for the forces of reaction, for those elements who oppose the Good Friday agreement and the whole idea of a new partnership coalition aimed at bringing the two communities together.

This year's Drumcree had a double purpose. The Portadown Orangemen, for whom the adjective "single-minded" might have been coined, repeated their familiar clockwork Orange act, saying they would stay at Drumcree "for as long as it takes" to get down the Garvaghy Road.

Others on the loyalist side

supported them, as per usual, but this time they had the ulterior motive of undermining the new settlement. The Rev Ian Paisley and his allies had lost in the Good Friday referendum and lost again, if only by a narrow margin, in the assembly elections. But they figured they had a couple more cards to play. One, which is at the advanced planning stage, is the creation of a

loyalist rejectionist front combining the Paisleyites, the Orange Order, Robert McCartney's UK Unionists and those people in David Trimble's Ulster Unionist Party who are unhappy about his political direction.

Drumcree was supposed to act as a cement to bring these elements together. It was also supposed to isolate and weaken David Trimble. Much of his discomfiture arose from the fact that Unionist opinion at first stayed eerily quiet about the controversy, waiting to see which way the wind was blowing.

But, by the end of the week, a Protestant consensus seemed to be emerging that Drumcree had got out of hand, with the widespread violence making Belfast a ghost town in the evenings. At Drumcree, the Orangemen could not hold back what they called "the blue bags" - contingents of belligerent drunks who brought along their Dutch courage in plastic bags.

The terrible denouement of the children's deaths has dealt a severe blow to the rejectionist Unionists, for in the public mind there is a clear linkage between Drumcree and the No campaigners. As a result, David

Trimble is in a stronger position. Furthermore, the rejectionists have become identified in the public mind with the tactic of extra-political street activity. It will be a foolhardy Unionist leader who ever tries to order his people back on to the streets again in such a manner. This is important, in that a menacing weapon has, for the moment, been removed from the extreme loyalist armoury. It will no longer be possible to argue that political consensus can easily be trumped by determined action on the streets.

The leaders of Portadown District Loyal Orange Lodge No 1, founded in 1796, have not yet absorbed this message. They are going to stay on at Drumcree. Unionism is chastened, the Order is split, their movement is more demoralised than ever: many Protestants wish they had never heard of Drumcree.

But the Portadown brethren, immune to the broader picture, will stay there in what could turn into an Orange version of Greenham Common. Or perhaps the Alamo is a better metaphor, for many of the frontiersmen who made their tenuous but futile stand there, people

like Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie, were of obstinate Ulster stock.

As their support dwindles away, as it seems bound to, we may see the emergence of a new formula that will stand a chance of doing away with the annual marching controversies. The disaster of Drumcree '98 may lead some opponents of dialogue to conclude that it is the only way.

Drumcree '98 began as an attempt to re-establish the old pattern of one community being able, through force of numbers, to impose its will on another. It finished as a stark example of the dangers of that approach, showing what can happen when men try to overwhelm the politics of consensus with the politics of the street.

The battle between the two elements of Unionism, old-style and new-style, is by no means over, but Drumcree '98 has, in the last analysis, weakened the hands of the rejectionists. It has shown the dangers of anarchy and the importance of the rule of law. The pity of it is that these lessons had to be learned the hard way, and that the young lives of the Quinn boys were lost in the process.

Be brave, Tony, and kick out the Cabinet sycophants



KEN
LIVINGSTONE
*It is the cronies and
incompetent ministers
whose mistakes come
back to haunt you*

ALASTAIR CAMPBELL'S comment that the impending Cabinet reshuffle was junk food for journalists is not surprising given the endless speculation based on unattributable rumour. The news that the Prime Minister had asked civil servants to evaluate the competence of junior ministers has led to even more despair and angst in the lower ranks of Her Majesty's Government.

Uniquely in British political history, Tony Blair's first reshuffle was being speculated about even before he had won the General Election. No sooner had Blair announced that all the members of his Shadow Cabinet would be appointed to his full cabinet than the speculation began about how short a time some would be allowed to serve.

Even in opposition there was massive tension. There was never any doubt that if Labour MPs had been allowed to elect people to specified posts, then either Robin Cook or John Prescott would have been able to beat Gordon Brown for the post of Shadow Chancellor.

Matters were made worse in July 1996 when super loyalists started to propose that Labour MPs should give up their right to elect the Shadow Cabinet. This proposal stirred up so much suspicion that it had to be dropped. Instead, Labour MPs who had been planning to seek election to the Shadow Cabinet were strong armed and intimidated and even bribed into withdrawing from the contest. In the end, it was only a handful of contestants from the Socialist Campaign Group who hopelessly challenged the incumbents.

Even before Labour took office, anonymous press briefings identified Michael Meacher, Gavin Strang and Frank Dobson as candidates for early retirement in government. In truth, of course, few people have created such a favourable impression

as Frank Dobson as he has battled to prise resources for the NHS out of Gordon Brown's puritan grip.

Not surprisingly, most of the fevered speculation has been on the future of Peter Mandelson. Gordon Brown's allies have waged a powerful campaign to try to force Tony Blair into giving Peter Mandelson a ministry to run, maybe Culture or Trade and Industry. The rival camp, claiming to be acting on behalf of the Prime Minister, are demanding that the blessed Peter be given David Clark's job (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster) in the hope that he would then transform it into a massive power base from which to enforce the Leader's will in every ministry and corner of the realm.

The one thing on which all Labour MPs are agreed is that the speculation has been nothing other than destabilising, while ensuring that acres of newspaper are devoted to the personalities rather than the policies of the Government.

I faced similar problems in the days of the old Labour GLC. Before

I became leader, the practice was that Labour councillors elected four of their number to meet with the leader and chief whip, and after an hour or two of back-stabbing in private, a total package would be presented to the Labour Group.

The only consistent feature of this process was that everybody who was elected to the leader's advisory committee was able to conclude after rigorous analysis that they themselves were best qualified to occupy the most important committee chairs. For those not lucky enough to be elected to the Leader's advisory committee, the only sure way to guarantee a position was to follow that sound underlying principle of the British constitution - browbeating the leader.

I had no doubt that the collective judgement of the GLC Labour Group would be a better mechanism to evaluate the relative merits of my colleagues. Also, I had no desire to spend endless hours of my time listening to sycophantic drivel. In the run up to the GLC election, therefore, I persuaded the Labour group to change its rules so that each post in the administration would be determined by a secret ballot of all Labour councillors.

The new system soon settled down and the Labour group consistently voted for competence rather than cronyism. I have no doubt that if Tony Blair had the confidence to give up his powers to appoint the Cabinet and pass the decision making to the Parliamentary Labour Party, he would find he ended up with a more competent and effective government.

Any leader is bound to be tempted to guarantee a majority of loyalists in their Cabinet. The temptation to hang on to loyal retainers who are almost irresistible. The trouble is it's your cronies and incompetent



Robin Cook, next Chancellor?



Gordon Brown of the FO?

cabinet members who will guarantee a succession of damaging rows in parliament as their mistakes come back to haunt you.

Although the majority of the British public would find reform eminently sensible, it is unlikely Tony Blair is going to give up any of his powers of patronage. Every single one of Blair's changes to the rules of the Labour Party and the Parliamentary Labour Party have concentrated power around the core of sycophants that surrounds him. It is the same instinct to centralise power which may very well lead him to appoint Peter Mandelson to a new cabinet role of super enforcer: a decision guaranteed to cause him endless grief in the long term, and possibly in the short term.

Imagine how much better it would be for Tony Blair if he actually plucked up courage and gave all us power-less backbench MPs a real bit of influence over the direction of the Government. In a secret ballot of Labour MPs, Gordon Brown would be replaced in the Treasury by Robin Cook who is eminently bet-

ter qualified, with his firmer grasp of economic forces to minimise the impact of the recession that Gordon has made almost inevitable. With his passionate commitment to Europe, Gordon Brown would slot easily into the Foreign Office. Once the Irish peace process has been secured there is no doubt that Labour MPs would elevate Mo Mowlam to the front rank of Labour ministers.

Labour's golden boys, Alan Milburn and Stephen Byers, would know they had been promoted to the Cabinet on their ability rather than simply their loyalty and usefulness to the leader. And as for the Cabinet casualties, their whinging and complaining would be irrelevant given that their sackings would have been based on the brutal assessment of 420 colleagues rather than the whim of the leader.

But most attractive of all would be the fact that the spin doctors would almost go out of business, given that predicting the decisions of the Parliamentary Labour Party would be much more difficult than reporting the outpourings of some half-cut

THE INDEPENDENT

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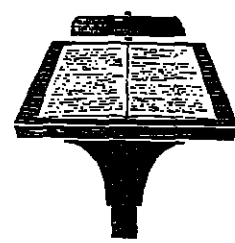
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The truth about towns and cities



PODIUM

LORD RODGERS
*From a speech by
the Chairman of the
Urban Task Force to
the Urban Villages
Forum Conference*

of derelict land that is worthy of reclamation.

The task which my group has been given is complex and diverse. The solutions for the metropolitan city are unlikely to be replicable in the market town. What may be achievable on a vacant coalfield site will be heavily constrained in a built-up area.

By now you may be questioning my wisdom in agreeing to chair the task force. Never-

theless, what I would hope to give you is some idea of how we are going to focus our efforts.

First, it is clear to me that to make sense of the complexities of the English urban pattern we must adopt a truly global perspective.

As I travel around the world, the same spectre looms - environmental degradation, gridlock, increased privatisation of public space, social segregation, low standards of urban design and poor quality of life. Some cities - Los Angeles, Mexico City and Santiago - have already lost the battle.

Second, we capitulated to market economics. I don't make this necessarily as a political statement. I am talking only about the economics of land use. But in this respect the product of *laissez-faire* planning is any town. Everywhere begins to look like everywhere else. What purports to be offering freedom and choice offers no such thing.

There is, however, a different approach - dare I say a "third way". The increased demand for new housing has focused our minds. The redevelopment of large areas of recycled urban land in English

towns and cities provides a significant opportunity to get things right. We must, however, avoid the mistakes of the Sixties and Seventies by working with the inhabitants of our future urban communities. We must respond to the need to create new housing without creating ghettos of social exclusion.

The question is: how can we accommodate the maximum amount of development within already developed areas, while simultaneously improving the quality of life?

The second part of my equation is social well-being. I am not a zealot. I recognise that we could provide a physical Utopia in our towns and cities and still fail to achieve sustainable urban communities.

For the task force, this gives us a problem. On the one hand we have to limit our remit to manage our task. On the other, if we present our recommendations into a policy vacuum we achieve nothing.

This Government has given us a clear model of regional development.

We must help to translate that into practical solutions.

Who cares if he's the real father?



YVONNE ROBERTS

Let us view DNA testing as the foundation stone of a society that truly values its young

ON MONDAY, yet another strike was announced in that Nineties Klondike known as genetic commerce. It was revealed that for £300, a do-it-yourself DNA paternity testing kit can be acquired. A cotton wool bud is used to collect cells from inside a child's cheek - with or without the mother's approval - while another swab is taken from the father. Both are dispatched to the company, the DNA Testing Agency. A man will then have an expensive lesson in the cost of a suspicious mind - or the family tree will suddenly find itself with a branch lopped off, and much else besides may become uprooted.

Panic has been the instant reaction to this increase in knowledge about the ties that bind - especially from those who toil in the field of ethics. David Hinchcliffe, chairman of the House of Commons Health Select Committee, called for the tests to be stopped, suggesting "the likely consequences are damaged and destroyed relationships." And Sir Colin Campbell, chairman of the Human Genetics Advisory Committee, voiced key concerns. Whose permission should be sought? Once the information is received, is the father under an obligation to tell anyone - and if so, whom? But then, on Radio 4's *Today* programme, he added: "This seems to be a topic without any of the moral context in which it should be approached." As if family life has ever been that tidy.

A pattern is beginning to emerge in the responses to each fresh corner turned in genetics. The first is to act as if many of the dilemmas thrown up have never been encountered before, in the span of human history. The second is to suggest a ban. A more realistic approach is to go with the flow, strongly steered by the certainty that in the tangle that family ties often become, the "perfect" solution (which also poses the question, perfect for whom?) is rarely achievable. If the aim is the best interests of the child, then, in that "moral context", the fewer the family secrets, the healthier the child.

So, let us take a couple of steps back, before the £300 cheque is dispatched, and accept that for centuries the suspicion of a cuckoo in men has been a haunting possibility



Fatherhood is about more than just biology - the quality and honesty of the relationship matter as much as genes

Joanne O'Brien/Format

for husbands. The key question, as far as children's welfare is concerned, is: how have they reacted?

Aristocratic families have often absorbed children from extramarital liaisons into the weave of their family history. Fifty years ago, when divorce was at its lowest, a cuckoo in the marital home meant that a wife had cheated; but some husbands never found out. On the Seventies, one study accidentally discovered that up to 30 per cent of a group of some 250 women had a child who could not have been the offspring of its putative father.

For others, the evidence has been obvious, when prolonged absence on war duty has made paternity impossible. In her study *Imagining Home, Gender Race and National Identity 1945-64*, Wendy Webster, cites one, heart-breaking case.

A newly-married woman was told her husband was missing, believed killed. She had an affair and conceived a boy. The missing husband returned and told his wife she had to choose between them. The boy was adopted, and a year later the husband left. Conversely, Mass

Observation, in which thousands of women recorded their way of lives, also details how some men chose to turn a blind eye to an offspring not of their mould.

In short, if a man is to react well or with hostility, he will do so with or without scientific backing. Plenty of biological children, for instance, have been subjected to abuse as a result of a father's unfounded suspicions that his son or daughter is not his "possession". In that particular situation, DNA paternity testing can only ease a child's trial - if, that is, a man is adult enough to accept the truth.

It seems contradictory that at a time in which biological fatherhood is constantly under discussion - for instance, the rights of unmarried fathers are now established - a ban should be sought on a method which, if you are an optimist, could be viewed as a way of strengthening paternal ties.

Fans of *The Archers* will know that the appalling Kate has just given birth to a child which the upstanding Roy is convinced is his. Kate would no doubt object to a non-biodegradable swab being inserted

into her child's mouth, but in years to come, will her newborn daughter thank her for refusing to name her dad? (Look, for example, at Paula Yates's distress at discovering that Jess Yates was not her biological father.) And while it may be in a mother's interest to eliminate from her life a man for whom she has no affection, is that fair on her offspring?

The 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child states that a child has a right to know the identity of both parents and to maintain contact. So, why not move a step further? Why not conduct a DNA paternity test on each putative father? (Reluctant dads will present a problem.) A parental contract could then be signed, by both parents, to pledge care and support throughout that child's life.

Let us view DNA testing not as a potential saboteur of "respectable" suburban life - but the foundation stone of a society that truly values the stability of its young.

David Hinchcliffe MP has preferred instead to focus on the more negative aspects of the DIY DNA test. Last week, the Child Support Agency belatedly announced that it

was simplifying its financial demands on non-residential parents - Mr Hinchcliffe believes that some men will employ the DNA test to cancel their obligations totally.

Two million children receive no contribution from the absent parent. If only a fraction of these parents fork out £300 for the kit, the company which devised it has truly struck gold. On the other hand, if some men subsequently discover they are not the biological parent, and if they have had no long-term relationship with the child, then why should they pay the dues of another man?

Better still, perhaps this aggrieved cohort can help to put pressure on the true fathers so that they do remain positively entwined in their children's lives. (Fears about being nobbled for years for paternal dues as the result of a one-night stand can easily be allayed: wear a condom.)

Of course, it is not only fathers who have an instinct about a son or a daughter. Biographies are littered with histories of children who grew up feeling "different", only to discover (as did the Body Shop's Anita Roddick) that an "uncle" is the bi-

ological father. Family truths can sometimes cause grievous damage but arguably, deception, omissions and falsehoods hurt far more.

Hopefully, once this initial DNA panic has abated, perhaps the present debate on fatherhood, which has so far placed such a high premium on blood ties, may become more rooted in reality. One in 65 children in Britain will experience divorce; a high proportion will move into stepfamilies. Bad news and stepfathers appear to go together like Darcy and Joan but, quietly and without fuss, many stepfamilies have found ways to make it work well enough. What matters as much as genes are the honesty of a relationship and the honesty on which it is based.

The writer Carlo Gebler, for instance, has a stepdaughter, India. When she was five, he moved in with her mother. "My first task as a stepfather," he says, "was always to make her feel included and never to leave her out."

It's a lesson which some biological parents - with or without the help of a DNA test - are never quite grown-up enough to grasp.

RIGHT OF REPLY

JOHN MONAGHAN



A lecturer at Leeds University's Centre for Mathematics Education defends the use of calculators in schools

THE ARGUMENT goes roughly like this: calculators encourage mental laziness, and children become dependent on them; we should return to the good old written methods and ban calculators so that our children become more adept at mental and written arithmetic.

I am far from convinced. Student calculator use has become something of a scapegoat for poor mental arithmetic skills. But there are many issues in this debate. Consider just two, the role of teachers and the relation between written and mental methods.

The 1994 Science & Mathematics Ofsted report notes the need for teachers to look at calculator use. Surely teachers addressing good calculator practice with pupils is a good thing. But there is a certain difficulty with this if calculators are banned from the classroom.

Now let us consider the relationship between a written method and a mental method.

156 + 287. Close your eyes and do this in your head. How did you do it? I did it by adding the most significant digits first, i.e. 100 + 200 (mentally noted 300), then 50 + 80 (mentally added on 130 to get 430) and then 6 + 7 (mentally added on 13 to get 443). I think this is an efficient mental method. Written methods encourage the reverse, the least significant digits first, i.e. 6 + 7, put down the 3 and carry 1, etc. I think this makes the mental arithmetic much harder - try it yourself. My point here is simply that written methods do not necessarily lead to good mental methods.

What of the calculator? Well, it is neutral in this case, but neutral is not "bad".

If we are to push mental arithmetic in schools, then we should consider all methods, and not just blame the use of calculators.

A lifetime spent in cold comfort

"NEVER INTERFERE in a quarrel between queers: they have the strength of men and the courage of women." This nugget of advice comes courtesy of Stella Gibbons's no-good brother, a man she had to bail out on a number of occasions, and who proved himself to be a worthy member of the Gibbons family.

If you want to know the inspiration for the barking mad Starkadders of *Cold Comfort Farm*, the only one of Stella Gibbons's books now widely read, a quick glance round the family portraits tells you all you need to know. Grandfather Gibbons looked like a goat, and he also possessed the appetite of one. He was not above taking a lunge at his sons' women, and extracts from his self-pitying diary, which are included in this book, make for extraordinary reading. Stella's father was no better. A doctor who was greatly admired by his patients, he was violent and, just like his old dad, sexually rampant. The 11-year-old Stella had to coax him out of committing suicide and, even at that tender age, she realised that he was causing for those around him.

Stella thought that a list should have been pinned up in the hall so you knew whose names could be uttered in the warring family. Writing her comic classic was a way for Stella to exorcise the demons of her childhood. The whole boiling mess of the family drama had a comic reincarnation in the crazed Starkadders.

Educated at first by governesses, who left the house in tears or high indignation, depending on how they had taken Dr Gibbons's advances, Stella went on to the North London Collegiate School and then took a two-year course in journalism. She got a job at a news agency but carried on living at home to give her mother some support against the cruelty of her father. Her mother was soon to die of cere-



WEDNESDAY BOOK

OUT OF THE WOODSHED:
THE LIFE OF STELLA GIBBONS
BY REGGIE OLIVER, BLOOMSBURY, £25

bral thrombosis; the funeral service was interrupted by Dr Gibbons shouting: "Oh, she was a bitch! She never cooked properly. What I had to put up with!" Six months later, he too was dead. With both of the parents gone, Stella and her two brothers went off to share a cottage in Hampstead.

It was, initially, a happy period. Stella was writing and Hampstead, at the time, was still something of a rural idyll, possessing a good deal of Bohemian charm. But the Gibbons genes outed soon enough. The brothers took to drinking heavily and bringing some very dodgy women back to the house. There were wild parties and what might have been a louche social life, but Stella's child-

hood would not let go of her. Battle-scarred from the scenes of her early years, she craved order - like Flora Post, *Cold Comfort's* organising heroine. She earned the money, ran the house and cleaned up the messes of her two brothers.

At work things were a good deal better. She was rising in the world of journalism, despite having been sacked from her agency job for miscalculating the rate of the franc against the dollar. Her poems were getting published (Virginia Woolf was greatly impressed by them) and so were her short stories. Then came *Cold Comfort Farm* - her brilliant swipe at all those awful, earthy novels that were so popular during the



Joanna Lumley in a film version of 'Cold Comfort Farm'

Twenties - and she had fame and fortune. A year later she also had a husband, the singer and actor, Allan Webb.

It is at this point that Stella Gibbons somehow drifts out of her nephew's biography. She longed to be ordinary and Reggie Oliver colludes with her wish, tidying away her husband's affairs and glossing over her strained relationship with her only child, Laura. Unwilling to delve into her private life, Oliver makes only a vague attempt to outline her public one. She travelled a bit: she met friends for tea in Highgate and made occasional sallies into the literary world. Oliver pads out the rest of his biography with a whistle-stop tour of the plots of Stella's later work. But seeing that her literary career went into a considerable decline after *Cold Comfort Farm*, this probably was not a good game plan.

As a widow, Stella Gibbons ran a literary salon on the first Saturday of

every month. John Braine, "with one or two female acolytes", was a regular attendee, as well as anyone young, interesting or good-looking who had caught Stella's eye. You would hope that Reggie, who himself has written a few plays (including the engagingly titled *Put Some Clothes on, Clarissa?*), would have breathed a little life into these events. Unfortunately, that is not the case.

The no-good brother fades from the book quite early, under a financial cloud. Reggie Oliver moves through the rest, tidying things away in the wretched. You can sympathise. It's not easy to write frankly about your own relations and still stay civil round the Christmas turkey ("Ay, would it were a culture, 'twere more fitting").

On matters literary, Oliver writes "there is a recurrent if not invariable critical prejudice as favour of a little dullness". He should be so lucky.

SUSAN JEFFREYS

WEDNESDAY POEM

THE STRANGER
BY SEMEZDIN MEHMEDINOVIC, TRANSLATED BY
KATHLEEN JAMIE AND ANTONELA GLAVINIC

One day, I too will set off alone
into the darkness of a grave
on Alfakavak, or some other
city hill, here
where I once knew everyone.
Now, I recognise no one at all,

except two or three -
and only at night, alone
from the past, do I look out
at the darkness of the city
from someone else's flat,
I, the stranger, the stranger.

This is our final selection from Chris Agee's
anthology of contemporary poetry from Bosnia,
'Scar on the Stone' (Bloodaxe, £8.95)

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Lord Boyd-Carpenter

THROUGHOUT HIS long and distinguished life, John Boyd-Carpenter did everything that came his way, intellectual or physical, with zest and pugnacity, and often with remarkable effect. He also liked everything done at speed, and could be brisquely brusque with hesitation – however well-founded – or delay. His mind was not a particularly subtle one, but he could use it like a hatchet to hack through the undergrowth of often complicated, and even tortuous political problems. He liked to attack business directly and, for preference, immediately.

Between 1965 and 1970 the Conservatives went through a period of intense intellectual activity which, in many respects, prefigured what it was to undergo under Margaret Thatcher between 1975 and 1979. In 1965 the new Leader, Edward Heath, decreed that every single aspect of policy should be re-examined in great detail, and with radical intentions.

The then rather large Conservative Research Department contained a great many young officers who responded with enthusiasm to the possibility this offered them of influencing new policy. A number of politicians were only too eager to benefit from the energies and initiatives of the youngsters in what virtually amounted to a shadow Civil Service. One of the foremost of these politicians was John Boyd-Carpenter: though by then in his late fifties, he had the energy of youth, and he invariably responded with openness and generosity to often merely sketched ideas.

One anecdote will, I hope, illustrate how Boyd-Carpenter went about his work. The Conservative Party came to power in 1970 in possession of a highly complex set of plans for the reform of the National Health Service and the social security system, responsibility for both of these aspects of the welfare state then under the hand of a single minister.

Boyd-Carpenter – rightly as it turned out – suspected the resolute of the new Secretary of State, Sir Keith Joseph. Boyd-Carpenter decided to call on Joseph. He requested back-up from the Conservative Research Department and the late Rosemary Marten. Chris Patten, and myself were detailed to accompany him to the DSS headquarters, then at Elephant and Castle. He said he would pick us up at our office in Old Queen Street.

He arrived so comfortably ahead of time that we assumed he required a preliminary briefing, after which we would take a taxi to the department. Not so. We would, he announced, walk to our destination, "to clear our heads". Some time later the thoroughly refreshed and totally clear-headed portly backbencher arrived at Elephant and Castle with three puffed-out youngsters trailing in his wake. He then put Joseph and his senior civil servants through a punishing inquisition, rarely referring to us save on the occasional matter of detail. I thought then – and I think now – that the Heath government would have fared better had Boyd-Carpenter, that most capable and pugnacious of men, been

inserted as Secretary of State rather than the indecisive Joseph.

Boyd-Carpenter was born in 1908, the son of an MP and political talk filled his household. He was educated at Stowe and Balliol. He left Oxford with a good degree in History, and a Diploma in Economics. He decided to read for the Bar, and in the process of his legal development collected the Harmsworth Law Scholarship and the Council of Legal Education's Prize for Constitutional Law.

In 1937 he married a soldier's daughter, Margaret Hall, whose father was a Colonel in the Scots Guards, which regiment he joined in 1940, rising in the course of the war to the rank of Major in 1943. Hostilities being over he entered – as he had always planned to – politics, holding the safe Tory seat of Kingston in the general election debacle of 1945. He held that seat

His mind was not a particularly subtle one, but he could use it like a hatchet to hack through the undergrowth of complicated political problems

until he was elevated to the peerage in 1972.

Though he never quite reached the very front rank in politics – he was, perhaps, too abrasive a character for that – Boyd-Carpenter was a formidable minister, respected, and perhaps even feared, by his civil servants.

The interesting thing about his ministerial career – and what made him invaluable in the opposition years of 1964 to 1970, and again between 1974 and 1979 – was that it straddled domestic social affairs and economic matters. He was surprised to be appointed, in the 1951 government, by Churchill, to be Financial Secretary to the Treasury, for he had never, hitherto, evinced any particular interest in matters economic. He had just discovered, as he was to record later in his 1980 memoirs *Way of Life*, Churchill's liking for appointing ministers to offices in the work of which they had little or no experience, so that they would bring fresh minds, rather than half-baked ideas, to a new department.

It should be noted, incidentally, that, in *Way of Life*, Boyd-Carpenter refused to recycle well-known stories about Churchill, and the great man's somewhat idiosyncratic method of conducting the business of government. Boyd-Carpenter's book provides invaluable first-hand evidence to support Anthony Selton's thesis – expressed in his immensely scholarly *Churchill's*

Indian Summer (1981) – that the generally under-estimated 1951 government was a highly effective one.

With the exception of the brief period of 1954 to 1955, when he was Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation, Boyd-Carpenter was, at various times, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, and Chief Secretary as well as Paymaster-General. From 1955 to 1962, however, he was Minister of Pensions and National Insurance, while in opposition from 1964 he was his party's chief spokesman on housing and Chairman of the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee.

The significant thing to record about his ministerial career is the fact that, in each post in which he served he found a mess, and began a sorting out of the mess before he was moved on. For example, when he went to the Ministry of Transport, he found that he had two Permanent Under-Secretaries under him. One was quite uninterested in shipping (one of the new minister's responsibilities) and another uninterested in aviation. The reason, of course, for this division of concern and effort was that these two men had, hitherto, been responsible for different departments, and were concerned jealously to guard their old territories.

Boyd-Carpenter, in his usual decisive manner, sorted out differences, integrated the disparate elements and produced the first comprehensive system for administering transport policy which the country had seen. He it was, for example, who began the creation of the British motorway system. Although today, in some circles, it is fashionable to decry that system as environmentally unfriendly, the sober truth of the matter is that, without Boyd-Carpenter's often patient – but, also, often peremptory – groundwork, British industry, with the vastly increasing demand for (relatively) efficient methods of transferring goods from one place to another, would have seized up.

Every government learns rapidly how difficult it is to reconcile the expensive dreams and hopes of the welfare state with the stringent economic requirements of the Treasury. Correspondingly, the burden of negotiation with spending departments places an enormous burden on the Chancellor of the Exchequer, his job being almost as impossibly burdensome as that of the Prime Minister. Because of his awareness of this serious difficulty, Harold Macmillan decided, in 1962, to bring the Chief Secretary to the Treasury – Boyd-Carpenter – into the Cabinet. Various of Macmillan's successors have tried to reverse this dispensation, and have always returned to it. One of the reasons for the change was that it had been found that departmental ministers would resist abridgements from a junior minister on matters of financial prudence, and appeal over his head to the Chancellor.

Once Boyd-Carpenter was in the Cabinet, the Prime Minister decreed that he should be responsible for the control of public expenditure while the Chancellor, Reginald Maudling, took care of what, nowadays, we call macro-economic policy, including taxation and economic foreign relations.



John Boyd-Carpenter, as Minister of Transport, arriving at 10 Downing Street for a cabinet meeting in 1955

Boyd-Carpenter went about the work with a will, his detailed understanding of social security matters – gained from his six and a half years at the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance – ensured that the business of welfare was dealt with in a sensitive way. But he dealt with all the battles he had with spending ministries with relish, never erring except on the side of good national housekeeping. He quickly and wryly noted, however, that some ministers deferred claims for greater expenditure until he was abroad, when they could approach Maudling directly. This was because "Reggie was a kinder man than I was in such matters".

It is more than ordinarily useful, therefore, to have a minister or opposition spokesman who has experience in both spending and saving

departments, and who can thus efficiently ally aspiration and prudence. Until nearly the end of his life Boyd-Carpenter, whether in the Commons or in the Lords, expressed himself pungently and with effect on matters of health, social welfare and economics.

He also managed, over the later period of his life, to acquire a significant portfolio of business interests. He was, from 1969 to 1972, chairman of Orion Insurance, from 1972 to 1977 of the Civil Aviation Authority (where he took great pleasure in granting an air-worthiness certificate to Concorde, the financial groundwork for which he had laid at the Treasury) and chairman of Rugby Football Club from 1976 to 1984. He also found time to be, at various periods, chairman of the Carlton Club and of the Association

of Conservative Peers as well as Deputy Lieutenant for Greater London for a decade from 1973.

To all these activities he brought his familiar characteristics of incisiveness and tenacity of intellect, as well as his formidably blunt manner of private and public speaking.

Patrick Cosgrave

If it ought to be a crucial part of the role of the House of Commons to hold the executive of the day to account, there was no more assiduous and well informed performer than John Boyd-Carpenter, writes Tam Dalyell. He was one of the great examiners of the administration of the last 40 years.

Of his legendary late-night guerrilla activity against the Attlee government (1945-51), I have no direct knowledge. What I do know is that,

as Richard Crossman's shadow between 1964 and 1966, it really mattered to the Minister of Housing, his Permanent Secretary Dame Evelyn Sharp, and the officials, what Boyd-Carpenter asked, said and thought in that pounding monotone which was his hallmark.

As FPS (Parliamentary Private Secretary) on the Commons bench I could only marvel at how he was immersed in the details of the Protection from Eviction Bill, followed by the Rent Bill, followed by the Housing Subsidy Bill, followed by the Rating Bill, not to mention *ad hoc* debates such as one of censure on Pakenham. And it was, further, an amazing fact that this spokesman found the time to be the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee.

As a member along with John Biffen, Aidan Crawley, Col Sir Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre, Edward du Cann, Sir Douglas Glover, Jack Mendelson, Charles Morris, Arthur Probert, Samuel Silkin, Dame Irene Ward and Gerald Willis, I saw how he transformed himself from being a partisan politician to an extremely fair inquisitor.

Under his chairmanship we examined the leading civil servants of the day and his conduct made one proud of the profession of politics. Etched in my memory is his examination in February 1965 of Sir Richard Way, the distinguished and exceedingly able Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Aviation responsible for Concorde and its escalating costs. Even Sir Edmund Compton, the Comptroller and Auditor General who had worked to Harold Wilson and Douglas Houghton when they were chairmen of the Public Accounts Committee, told me that Boyd-Carpenter had been an outstanding *tour de force*.

Believing that, because of his behaviour when Foreign Secretary at Rambouillet over Suez and negotiations with the Israelis, Selwyn Lloyd was not payable to be Speaker of the House of Commons, I was active in the group of Labour Members supporting Boyd-Carpenter to succeed Horace King. We failed. But I hold to the opinion: of those of 1971 that Boyd-Carpenter, had he been elected Speaker, would have been a distinguished holder of that office.

John Archibald Boyd-Carpenter, politician: born 2 June 1908; called to the Bar, Middle Temple 1934; MP (Conservative) for Kingston-upon-Thames 1945-72; Financial Secretary to the Treasury 1951-54; Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation 1954-55; PC 1954; Minister of Pensions and National Insurance 1955-62; Chief Secretary to the Treasury and Paymaster-General 1962-64; Chairman, Public Accounts Committee 1964-70; created 1972 Baron Boyd-Carpenter; Chairman, Civil Aviation Authority 1972-77; chairman, Rugby Football Club 1976-84; Chairman, Association of Conservative Peers 1985-90; President 1991-98; married 1937 Margaret Hall (one son, two daughters); died Crux Eaton, Hampshire 11 July 1998.

Jimmy Driftwood

WHAT STARTED out as a tool for a history lesson being given by an Arkansas school teacher ended up in the US pop charts for six weeks and provided a near-hit for the British skiffle Lonnie Donegan. The schoolteacher was called James Morris and his song was called "The Battle of New Orleans", a celebration of the last battle of the war of 1812.

It was such a success that he changed his name to Jimmy Driftwood, persuaded the country star Johnny Horton to record the song, and devoted the rest of his life to using music to put American children in touch with their history.

Driftwood's father, Neil Morris, was a traditional performer who had been recorded by America's leading folksong collector Alan Lomax, so it wasn't at all surprising that Driftwood took a traditional fiddle tune, "The Eighth of January", as the melody for his "The Battle of New Orleans", the story of the time when the British "began to runnin' / On down the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico" (ironically – and ridiculously – when Lonnie Donegan recorded the song and got it to No 2 in the UK charts, the words were changed to "the rebels began to runnin'", presumably to spare the blushes of any military descendants of the British general Sir Edward Pakenham who was licked so decisively in the battle).

Driftwood's grandparents had moved from Tennessee to Arkansas before the Civil War, and it was on a home-made guitar, built by his grandfather from a fence rail, an ox yoke and part of a bedstead headboard, that Driftwood first began to play music as a boy. He also learned



Driftwood learned to play as a boy on a home-made guitar

fiddle and banjo, and spent much of his time when walking the 14 miles a day to and from school recalling the songs he had learned from members of his family.

Though he graduated from Arkansas State Teachers College and started teaching in the Forties, Driftwood was also performing at re-

gional folk festivals, and was asked in the early Fifties by RCA Victor to put together an album of *Newly Discovered Early American Folk Songs*, which included "The Ballad of New Orleans".

As a result of the Jimmy Horton hit, and Eddy Arnold's similar success with another of his songs,

"Tennessee Stud", Driftwood got a job with the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, and became a popular folk festival performer. He won Grammy awards for both "New Orleans" and "Tennessee Stud", and also for his album *Songs of Billy Yank and Johnny Reb*.

He never lost touch with his roots, however, and certainly didn't get caught up in the Nashville glitter; instead devoting much of his energy to spreading awareness of the songs and cultural heritage of the peoples of the Ozark Mountains, setting up the Rackensack Folklore Society, and organising in 1963 the first of a series of Arkansas Folk Festivals.

He also campaigned for the protection of natural resources, notably in a successful campaign against the damming of the Buffalo River in north Arkansas. With money from the Federal Government, he persuaded the Arkansas Commission of Parks, Recreation and Tourism to set up the \$3.4m Ozark Folk Center, not a mile away from his home.

He and his wife Clea also set up the Driftwood Barn near the family farm, to give him a permanent place to perform at weekends. No entrance fee was charged, but the hat was passed round in traditional folk style. By the time of his death the barn had become an official facility of the University of Central Arkansas.

Karl Dallas

James Corbett Morris (Jimmy Driftwood), singer/songwriter and teacher: born Mountain View, Arkansas 20 June 1907; married (three sons deceased); died Fayetteville, Arkansas 12 July 1998.

Lester King

LESTER KING's misfortune was to be a West Indies fast bowler in the era of Wesley Hall and Charlie Griffith, an opening pair who rank in cricket history with the most ferocious and the fastest. He emerged in the Jamaica team of 1961 and made his debut for West Indies, against India, on his home pitch at Sabina Park in April 1962.

King had a bustling action, his stock ball being fast-medium and he opened with Hall, India facing a total of 253. In an hour India lost five wickets for 26 and six for 40, five of them to King, his victims including Vijay Manjrekar and Chandu Borde. West Indies won the match by 123 and the rubber 5-0 and on the strength of this performance King spent the 1962-63 season playing for Bengal.

He was also chosen for the 1963 tour of England as Hall's partner but had to compete for a Test place with Griffith and Garfield Sobers. He did take 47 wickets on the tour, at an average of 27, and was commended by Wisden for his "accurate and sustained" attack in a defeat by Yorkshire at Middlesbrough.

King figured in an incident in that match that had both dressing rooms laughing afterwards and became a staple after-dinner story. Today it might provoke litigation.

When Fred Trueman was batting against Hall the West Indies captain Sobers called up an umbrella field to support the then fastest bowler in the world. Trueman spotted that Rohan Kanhai had been brought up from third man and King called in even closer at fine leg. When Hall was fully into his stride, his gold neck chain swinging from ear to ear, Trueman stopped him in mid-gallop and then called to Sobers: "If these



King in action for the West Indies at Eastbourne, 1963

bloody fielders coom any closer I'll appeal against the light."

King also toured India as the reserve fast bowler in 1966-67 and made his second appearance for West Indies in the draw against England in April 1968 at Georgetown, Guyana, taking 3-79. In a career that spanned only eight years he had a

Test record, in two matches, of nine wickets at an average of 17 and a career record of 142 wickets at 31.

Derek Hodgson

Lester Anthony King, cricketer: born St Catherine Parish, Jamaica 27 February 1939; died Kingston, Jamaica 9 July 1998.

Professor David Ayalon

DAVID AYALON was a leading figure in the field of Arabic studies and of Middle Eastern history.

Born in Haifa in 1914, Ayalon spent his childhood in Rosh Pina, in Galilee. He received his secondary education at the famous Reali School in Haifa, his higher education at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. His PhD thesis was on the Mamluke institution in medieval Egypt. It was a subject that absorbed him for the rest of his life.

During the Second World War he served as a volunteer in the British army. After the war he worked for the Jewish Agency and, after the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948, for its Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This service was of brief duration. In 1949 he joined the academic staff of the Hebrew University, first as founder and director of the Department of the Middle East in Modern Times, then as director of the Institute of Asian and African Studies. Ayalon became a full professor in 1959, and remained active in teaching and research until, and long after, his retirement. At the moment of his death, several new studies are still in the press.

Like many scholars in small countries with little-known languages, Ayalon worked and published on two levels: in his own language for his fellow countrymen; and in a world language – in his case English – for the international scholarly community. In both of these he did pioneer work.

His most important contribution to Israeli scholarship was a dictionary. In a country where a significant proportion of the population, as well as all the neighboring states, speak Arabic, an accurate knowledge of that language and of the culture that it enshrines is obviously a primary educational need. Ayalon devoted much of his life to deepening and extending that knowledge.

In 1947, in association with a colleague, Pesah Shinar, he published a pioneer Arabic dictionary, which at once became and has remained a standard work of reference. In addition to its obvious usefulness to speakers of either language studying the other, it is also an important contribution to Arabic lexicography, recording and explaining many new terms and usages in that constantly evolving language.

His contribution to international scholarship was primarily in history, more especially the history of armies and warfare, and of the Mamluke institution by which so much of the military history of the region was shaped. His primacy in the field is attested by the score or more articles that he wrote for the international *Encyclopaedia of*

Islam, published in Leiden, London and Paris. These included pioneering studies on such topics as warfare, siegecraft, firearms and the like, in their Middle Eastern historical context.

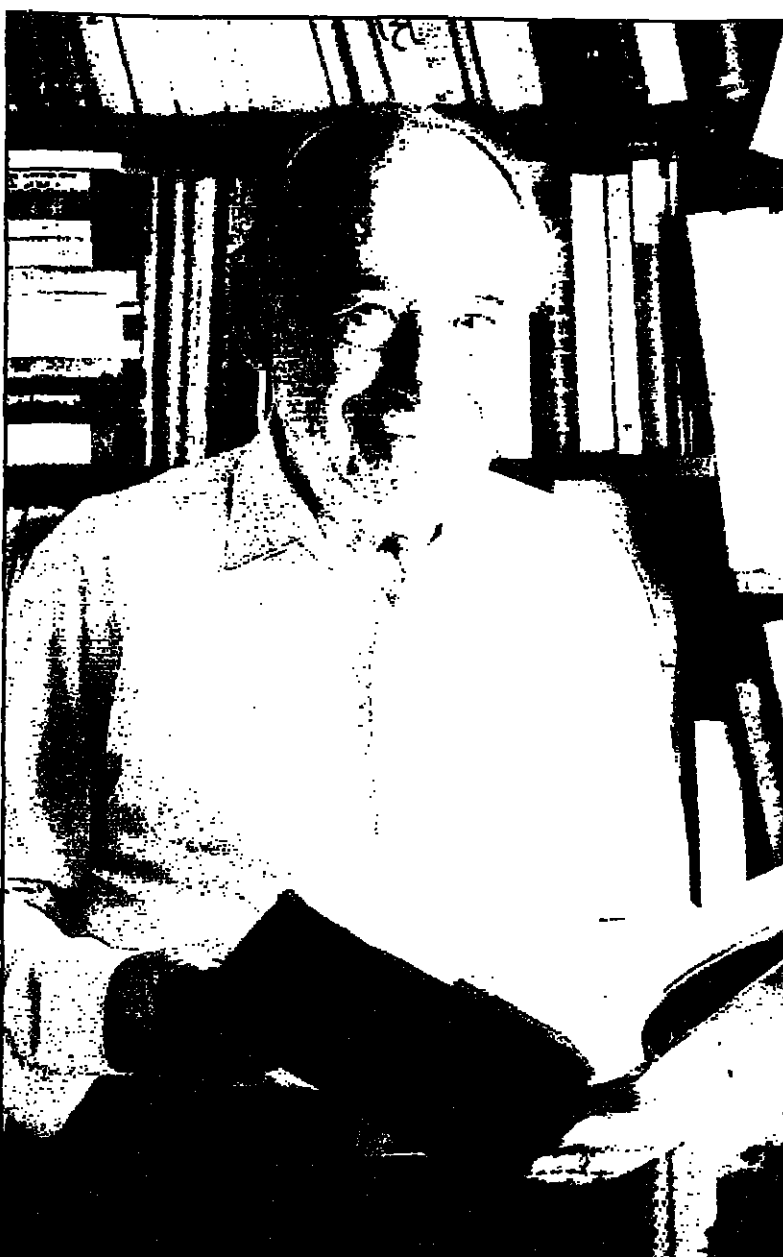
But Ayalon was not simply a military historian, important as that may be. His studies go deeper, and examine the social and cultural implications both of military change and of the rejection of military change. His book *Guns, powder and Firearms in the Mamluk Kingdom: challenge to a medieval society* (1956) is a case in point. So, too, are his many articles on the institution of military slavery. Starting with late medieval Egypt, he extended his studies both backward into the period of the caliphate, and forward, into the functioning of the Mamluke institution in Ottoman Egypt.

David Ayalon received many honours, both in Israel and abroad. Among others, he was a recipient of the highly esteemed Israel Prize (1972), a member of the Israel Academy of Sciences (1961), an honorary fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society (1962), the American Oriental Society (1963) and the American Historical Association (1967). He is sur-

When scholars on both sides of the Middle East conflict are able to examine each other's history with the same dispassion, peace will be significantly nearer

vived by his widow Myriam Rosen Ayalon, Professor of Islamic Art and Archaeology at the Hebrew University.

Let me conclude with two anecdotes. Some time in the 1950s, I ran into Ayalon coming out of the British Museum. He was visibly angry, the object of his anger being President Nasser. I assumed that this was Ayalon the Israeli, concerned about his country's conflict with Egypt. I was quite wrong. It was Ayalon the historian who was angry. He had just read Nasser's *Philosophy of the Revolution*, and was outraged by "the slanderous nonsense that Nasser talked about the Mamelukes".



The second anecdote, some years later, relates to an Egyptian doctoral student, working on the medieval history of his country. Since Ayalon was visiting London at the time, I thought it would be useful for the student to meet a leading authority in his field. There were, however, the obvious difficulties in the way of such a meeting, and I put it to the student that, while I thought it might be useful for him to meet and discuss his work with the Israeli professor, I had no wish to cause him any trouble or even embarrassment, and would understand perfectly if he preferred not to meet. The student was de-

lighted – nothing would give him greater pleasure than to meet this great scholar and profit from his wisdom and knowledge. They met on several occasions, and parted on the friendliest terms.

When scholars on both sides of current Middle East conflicts are able to examine each other's history and heritage in the same spirit of dispassionate scholarship, peace will be significantly nearer.

Bernard Lewis

David Neustadt (David Ayalon), lexicographer, born Haifa, Palestine 17 May 1914; married Myriam Rosen; died Jerusalem 25 June 1998.

HISTORICAL NOTES

DOUGLAS JOHNSON

Commemoration manqué

CAPTAIN ALFRED Dreyfus may have said of himself that he was only an artillery officer whose career had been interrupted by a tragic error. But his name now stands for the fight against injustice. The prisoner on Devil's Island denied that he had sold military secrets to the Germans. But it was said that he was Jewish and not French. He was the victim of prejudice, irrational ideology and a perverted system of justice. His final victory was, and remains, a victory for civilisation.

France is a country that believes in the commemoration of important events in French history, but, although Dreyfus was arrested in October 1894, there was no celebration until 13 January 1998. And this marked the 100th anniversary of Emile Zola's famous newspaper article "J'accuse".

The ceremony was very grand. A plaque was placed on the house where Zola had lived, the Minister for Education assured a large gathering at the Sorbonne that "J'accuse" would be read to all pupils in state schools, and the Prime Minister, accompanied by his leading ministers, paid homage to Zola in the crypt of the Pantheon, the resting place of France's great men.

But why choose Zola to commemorate Dreyfus? It is true that his article caused great excitement and made the affair a matter of public interest. But it did not convince the public that Dreyfus was innocent. If one is to follow the step-by-step process whereby Dreyfus was eventually freed, we should have had our attention called to 7 July last.

On 7 July 1948, the then minister for War, Cavaignac, revealed to the National Assembly the documents which supposedly proved Dreyfus's guilt. For the first time, details were given. This was a great moment and it was officially decided that an extract from the speech should be placarded in every commune in France. But five weeks later it was discovered that the principal document was a forgery. The case against Dreyfus was collapsing.

Why then does 7 July 1998 pass unnoticed? It is because commemorations of the past have to be relevant to the present. "J'accuse" responds to the preoccupations and pretensions of France today. It represents the triumph of French



Alfred Dreyfus: a victory for civilisation

literature. It is the action of the committed intellectual, who is specifically French. With Zola, we look back to Voltaire and forward to Sartre. We are commemorating a whole world of French achievement.

In political terms, Zola's "J'accuse" remade the Republican "bloc" and brought about a clear-cut division between radicals and conservatives. Consequently, the day after his speech in the Pantheon, Jospin tried to associate the present Left with the Dreyfusards, whilst pointing to the opposition, the Right, as the party that was always anti-Dreyfus. He hoped to benefit from Zola in 1998, as Clemenceau had in 1898. He wanted to appear at the head of a party imbued with ideals, not as a government dealing with the technical problem of unemployment.

The Zola letter is part of the drama of French history. The highest in the land are accused of complicity with injustice. But the letter also poses a moral problem. Those whom Zola attacks were not cheap villains. They were patriots who believed that they were protecting a France that had just been defeated in a war with Prussia. So, as the Frenchman today thrills to Zola's words, he asks himself if he would have put the welfare of an individual before that of the French army?

Thus, in France, commemoration relives both the excitement and the moral dilemmas of the past. To commemorate the past is to give life to the present. "Je commémore, donc je suis."

Douglas Johnson is the author of *The Dreyfus Affair* (Susser Publications, £11)

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

MUSSETT: On 16 June, to Adam and Lindsay, another wonderful son, George Patrick, a brother to Luke.

THURLOW: On 11 July 1998, to Jacqui and Simon, a son, Miles David, a brother for Madeleine Lucy.

DEATHS

BINDON: (née Organe), Sally, beloved wife of Martin, sister of Jan and Michael, and much-loved aunt, died peacefully on Saturday 11 July after a long and courageous battle against illness. Funeral 2.30pm Monday 30 July at Crosswells, Cwmbran. Flowers, or donations for Cancer Research. Enquiries to R. Bevan, 01873 800445.

LEWIS: Edna, died peacefully on 10 July 1998 at Broadlands, Chapel Llanfyllter. The funeral will take place on Friday 17 July, at Glyntaf Crematorium, at 3pm.

LOUGH: Suddenly on July 13, Muriel (née Barker), of Durham, aged 84 years. Dearest loved wife of John (retired Professor of French) and a much-loved mother of Judith. Funeral to take place on Monday 20. Would friends please meet for service and cremation at Durham Crematorium at 1.30pm. Family flowers only, please, by request. Donations in lieu, if so desired, to Cancer Research.

SUTTON: On 13 July, Anne Leslie (née Hope), of Maldon Court School, with great courage, dignity and grace, at home, surrounded by her beloved family. Funeral at All Saints' Church, Maldon, on Tuesday 21 July at 11.30am, followed by cremation (family only). No flowers, please. Donations, if desired, to the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund and/or the Samaritans, c/o A.G. Smiths, 7 Spital Road, Maldon. A Thanksgiving Service for Anne will be held in the autumn.

IN MEMORIAM

AVEERY: Elliott George. One year ago, miss you loads, young Avey. Mark and Media.

Announcements in the Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS are charged at £5.50 a line (VAT extra).

BIRTHDAYS

The Sultan of Brunel, 52; Professor Sir James Ball, economist, 65; Dr Jocelyn Bell Burnell, astronomer, 55; Sir Harrison Birtwistle, composer, 64; Mr Julian Bream, guitarist, 65; Mr Geoffrey Burgon, composer, 57; Lord Buxton of Alsa, former chairman, Anglia Television, 80; Miss Carmen Callil, founder, Virago Press, 60; Mr Robert Conquest, writer, 81; Professor Sir David Cox, former Warden of Nuffield College, Oxford, 74; Mr John Denham MP, Parliamentary Secretary, Social Security, 45; Sir Alexander Durie, a former vice-president of the AA, 83; Sir Malcolm Edge, former Deputy Master and Chairman, Board of Trinity House, 67; Air Marshal the Rev Sir Paterson Fraser, 91; Sir Simon Gourlay, former President, National Farmers' Union, 64; Sir John Graham, former diplomat, 72; Miss Ann Jellicoe, playwright and theatre director, 71; Mr Charles Kelly, former Chief Constable, Staffordshire, 68; Sir Larry Lamb, former Editor, *Daily Express*, 69; Dame Iris Murdoch, novelist and philosopher, 79; Mrs Juliet Pannett, portrait painter, 87; Mrs Marion Roe MP, 62; Miss Linda Ronstadt, singer, 52; Mr Ron Smith, trade unionist, 83; Air Chief Marshal Sir Ruthven Wade, 78; Professor Lord Winston, obstetrician and gynaecologist, 58.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Inigo Jones, architect, 1573; John Barnett (Beer), composer, 1802; Sir Henry Cole, promoter of the

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Edinburgh, President of the City and Guilds of London Institute,

Great Exhibition of 1851 and founder of the South Kensington Museum, 1808; Henry Edward Manning, Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, 1808; Benno Adam, animal painter, 1812; Dame Marie Tempest, (Marie Susan Etherington) actress, 1864; Alfred Charles William Harmsworth, first Viscount Northcliffe, newspaper proprietor, 1865; Noel Gay (Richard Moxon Armitage), composer, 1898. Deaths: Vladimir I. Prince of Kiev, 1015; Jean-Germain Drouais, historical painter, 1738; Karl Czerny, pianist and composer, 1857; William H. Bonney alias Henry McCarty, or "Billy the Kid", outlaw, shot by Sheriff Pat Garrett 1881; "General Tom Thumb" (Charles Sherwood Stratton), a 40in-tall dwarf in Barnum's circus, 1883; Anton Pavlovich Chekhov, playwright and author, 1904; Emil Hermann Fischer, chemist, 1919; Mary Cholmondeley, novelist, 1925; Walter Gay, artist, 1937; John Joseph Pershing, soldier, 1948; Paul William Gallico, writer, 1976; Margaret Mary Lockwood, actress, 1980. On this day, Jerusalem was captured by the Crusaders, 1099; the Royal Society was granted a royal charter, 1662; the "Marseillaise" was adopted as the French National Anthem, 1795; margarine was patented by Hippolyte Mege-Mouriés of Paris, 1869; Social Insurance came into effect in Britain, 1912; Mrs Clara Adams of New York was the first woman to complete a round-the-world flight (19 hours, four minutes), 1939; Alcoholics Anonymous was founded in Britain, 1948; close-up pictures of Mars

were transmitted by television from US *Mariner IV* satellite, 1965. Today is the Feast Day of St Athanasius of Naples, St Barhadbesaba, St Bonaventure, St David of Munktorp, St Donald, St Edith of Polesworth, St Pomplio Pirrotti, St Swithin and St Vladimir of Kiev.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Alexander Sturgis, "Caravaggio (iii): The Flagellation of Christ", 1pm; Gabriele Finaldi, "Canaletto Paints Venice", 6.30pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: I. Amelia Fearn, "Silver Design in the 20th Century", 2pm.

LUNCHEONS

Institute of the Motor Industry: Prince Michael of Kent, President of the Institute of the Motor Industry, presided over the Institute's President's Lunch held yesterday at Fanshaws, Brickendon, Hertfordshire. Prince Michael handed over the presidency to Lord Brabazon of Tara.

DINNERS

Foundation for Science and Technology: Lord Jenkin of Roding, Chairman, Foundation for Science and Technology, was in the chair at a lecture and dinner discussion held yesterday evening at the Royal Society, London SW1. Dr Geoffrey Robinson, Professor Martin Boddy and Mr Dave Hampton spoke on "Quality

of Life for the Millennium Generation – living and working space". Among those present were:

Lord and Lady Butterworth, Lord Chorley, Lord Gregson, Baroness Hilton, Lady Jordan, Lord Perry of Walton, Lord Quirk, Sir Austin Bide, Field Marshal Sir John Chapple, Sir Geoffrey Chippindale, Professor Dame Barbara Clayton, Sir Richard Briers, Sir Martin Rees, Mr Tam Doherty MP, Dr Ian Gibson MP, Mr John McFall MP, Mr Andrew Millar MP, Miss Jenny Ruxton, Dr Jim McQuinn, Dr Peter J. W. Saunders.

HMS Victory: Admiral Sir John Brigstocke, Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, and Lady Brigstocke were the hosts at a dinner for the Order of St John held yesterday evening onboard HMS Victory, Portsmouth Naval Base. Lord Vestey, Lord Prior of the Order, was the guest of honour. Among the guests were:

Professor and Mrs Anthony Mellors, Baroness Emsworth, Sir Christopher and Lady MacLennan, Sir and Mrs Kenneth Ayres, Mr and Mrs George Bonwell, Mr Graham Ellis, Mrs Karen Williams, Mr Stuart Golder, Mr and Mrs Christopher Johnson, Mr Leslie Martin, Dr and Mrs Kenneth Sturges and Mrs. Ned Sturges.

ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION

Sir Leonard Appleyard, former British ambassador to China, delivered the seventh in a series of English-Speaking Union lectures entitled "Furthering International Understanding" yesterday evening at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London SW1. He spoke on "China – Awakening Giant". Baroness Brigstocke, ESU Chairman, was in the chair.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

Characteristic relevant to provocation

WHEN CONSIDERING the defence of provocation to a charge of murder, for the purposes of the objective "reasonable man" test in section 3 of the Homicide Act 1957, a defendant's mental impairment was a characteristic which was relevant not only to the gravity of the provocation, but also to loss of self-control.

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal of Morgan James Smith against his conviction of murder, and substituted the conviction with one of manslaughter, but granted leave to the prosecution to appeal to the House of Lords.

At his trial the appellant denied murder but admitted manslaughter on the basis of, *inter alia*, provocation. It was argued on his behalf that there was evidence that he had suffered a severe depressive episode of substantial duration, and that that, with its consequence of disinhibition, was a characteristic with which the reasonable man should be imputed for the purposes of section 3 of the Homicide Act 1957.

The judge directed the jury that such a depressive episode was capable of being a characteristic with which the reasonable man was to be imputed, but was relevant only to the gravity of the provocation and not to the reasonable man's loss of self-control. The appellant was convicted of murder, and appealed against his conviction, on the ground, *inter alia*, that the judge had erred in his direction. Peter Thornton QC (Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for the appellant: John Kelsey-Fry (Crown Prosecution Service) for the Crown.

WEDNESDAY LAW REPORT

15 JULY 1998

R v Smith (Morgan James) Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Rose, Vice President, Mr Justice Potts and Mr Justice Douglas Brown) 10 July 1998

Mr Justice Potts said that it was submitted for the appellant that the objective standard of the "reasonable man" test in section 3 of the 1957 Act might be modified by imputing the characteristics of the particular defendant, and that those characteristics were relevant not only to the gravity of the provocation but also to the reasonable man's potential loss of self-control, and that those propositions were supported by a line of binding authority in the Court of Appeal consistent with the decision of the House of Lords in DPP v Camplin [1978] 2 All ER 168.

It was submitted that the interpretation of section 3 by the Court of Appeal in R v Ahluwalia [1992] 4 All ER 889, R v Dryden [1995] 4 All ER 987, R v Humphreys [1995] 4 All ER 1008, and R v Thornton (No 2) [1996] 2 All ER 1023 had, in particular, favoured a flexible approach to the apparent rigidity of the reasonable man test.

The prosecution argued that the defence submission was contrary to the reasoning and decision in *Camplin*, and that the effect of section 3 of the 1957 Act and the conclusions in *Camplin* were as stated by the majority of the Privy Council in *Luc Thiet Thuan v R* [1996] 2 All ER 1033, i.e. that mental characteristics might be taken into account as going to the gravity of the provocation but that the mental infirmity of a defendant, impairing his power of self-control, should not be attributed to the reasonable man for the purposes of the objective test.

In the court's judgment, the decisions of the Court of Appeal cited were in accordance with, and a logical extension of, the decision in *Camplin*, and were binding on the court. No distinction could properly be drawn, when attributing the characteristics with which a reasonable man was deemed to be endowed for the purpose of the objective part of the test imposed by section 3 of the 1957 Act, between their relevance to the gravity of the provocation to a reasonable man and his reaction to it, and it followed that the submissions of the prosecution must fail.

The court granted leave to appeal to the House of Lords, having certified the following question as involving a point of law of public importance: "Are characteristics other than age and sex, attributable to the reasonable man for the purposes of s 3 of the Homicide Act 1957, relevant not only to the gravity of the provocation to him but also to the standard of self-control to be expected?"

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

WORDS

WILLIAM HARTSTON big cheese, n.

The earliest citation is in a story by O. Henry written in 1910, but he used it in connection with a metaphor about a lean rat, and had *Big Cheese* mean-

ing success rather than a successful person. When Raymond Chandler, in 1934, wrote, "So the big cheese gave me the job", there is no doubt this was the real *Chiz*. Whatever the merits of an Urdu derivation, it seems likely that the similarity in sound between "cheese" and "chief" also played a part.

Victim, killer, cause celebre and heroine

FOR MUCH of her life, Emma Humphreys was a victim, but she died a fighter. Even on the day she died, she was about to embark on another battle. She had taken on the English judicial system and beaten it when her conviction for murdering her violent, abusive partner was quashed by the Court of Appeal in 1995. She had served longer in prison than many murderers serve for a crime she had not committed. When she died, Emma was about to report a man who had raped her.

"It was so brave of her," says her friend, Julie Bindel, who, with the pressure group, Justice for Women, had campaigned for her release from prison. "We took her on holiday a few weeks ago and said: 'Do you want to do this?' She said that she had to."

But on Saturday, Ms Bindel found Emma dead in the bed of the home she had made for herself in London. She was just 30 years old.

"What had happened was her spirit and enthusiasm had peaked, but her body had troughed," Ms Bindel says. "She had the will to live."

'She had the will to live but the prison system and the lack of care meant her body just couldn't survive'

but the prison system and the lack of care in her life meant her body just couldn't survive."

Emma Humphreys had already survived more than a body could be expected to bear. After an abusive childhood, she turned to prostitution in her early teens. Trevor Armitage, a drug addict twice her age, picked her up and subjected her to months of beatings, rapes and verbal abuse. One night, he promised his son and some male friends a "gang bang" and brought them back to the home they shared in Bulwell, Nottinghamshire. Emma, terrified, ran upstairs with two knives and slashed her wrists.

Armitage's reaction when he found her was to laugh at her bloody arms and get undressed. As he tried to rape her, she plunged a knife into his chest.

Humphreys was convicted of murder and given the mandatory life sentence at Nottingham Crown Court in December 1985, but she believed the decision was wrong. However, it was only when she learned of the cases of other battered women, Kiranjit Ahluwalia and Sara Thornton, did she see begin to understand why.

Emma Humphreys inspired victims of abuse after she was cleared of killing her violent boyfriend. Now she is dead, what will be her legacy? By Louise Jury

She became determined not to accept the label of murderer and served two years longer than the recommended tariff so she could challenge her original conviction. In 1995, she succeeded. Lord Justice Hirst, Mr Justice Kay and Mr Justice Cazalet ruled that the jury at Nottingham Crown Court had been misdirected by the trial judge. They reduced her conviction to manslaughter on grounds of long-term provocation.

Emma Humphreys emerged from court to cheers outside. "It has been a long process, longer than anybody knows," she said.

But the victory seemed hollow. Social services had made no provision to help her and only her friends in Justice for Women prevented an immediate return to the life she had led as a teenager.

"She had no support, no counselling and was on massive doses of medication," Julie Bindel says. "Without us, she would have been back down King's Cross, working as a prostitute and overdosing on heroin. She would have killed herself then."

Cocooned in a house with her supporters, they at least saved her from that. But she had problems adapting. "Sometimes I wonder whether it is all real and I become frightened it's just a dream. It's too hard to believe I really am free," she said in an interview a few days after her release.

Her first year outside was "hell". She ran wild, took pills to sleep. But then she found herself a home and began campaigning for other women in a similar plight. Her friends bought her a cat for her 30th birthday last October. Only last Thursday, she wrote to the teacher who encouraged her to write while she was in Holloway prison, to discuss finally ending her life story.

"She had started to form a life, become a whole human being," Ms Bindel says. "People saw a great chasm of need there, but she gave a lot to other people. She was extremely bright. She was very, very funny, witty and sarcastic and cutting. I think the word 'chutzpah' was invented for Emma."

She wanted to go back to prison and counsel men who had abused women. However, her friends advised her against this. They felt that she was too fragile to take on such a task. "Men continued to snuff

out her vulnerability, almost to the day she died."

Although Emma's weight had dropped to four or five stone, Julie Bindel believes it was not the anorexia that killed her. If food was placed in front of her, she did eat. "It was the medication that ultimately killed her," Ms Bindel blames the prison service for giving her medicine to keep her quiet. "But she was without question not planning to die. She was planning all kinds of things, but not dying. She was surrounded by love and had hopes."

After her death, her name lives on in the law. Emma Humphreys' case has been mentioned "in just about every Court of Appeal case," Ms Bindel says. "She challenged the law, but, more than that, she gave women hope. What they saw was this woman who had lived a life of hell, but found the strength to fight." Letter after letter would arrive at the Justice for Women headquarters addressed for her. Many said simply "Thank you."

Rohit Sanghvi, Emma's solicitor who also acted for Kiranjit Ahluwalia and represented Sara Thornton at her first appeal, says her case was "enormously significant".

Before the 1990s, the law was based on a ruling by Mr Justice Devlin in 1949 that for manslaughter with a defence of provocation to succeed, there had to be a "sudden and temporary loss of self-control".

Mr Sanghvi says this was based "entirely on male experience, not female experience". In most circumstances, women have to wait until their batterer is weakened - asleep or drunk, for example - before they are in a position to hit back. What the courts decided in Kiranjit Ahluwalia and Emma Humphreys' cases was that the "loss of self-control" could be immediately before they struck out - but possibly some time after they were last provoked.

The effect of the decision is seen today throughout the courts, Mr Sanghvi says. "Domestic violence has been brought out into the open. Juries are no longer asked to pooh-pooh the idea of battering, but are appreciative that battering can be one of the most horrendous crimes that is committed inside the home."

Manslaughter on grounds of provocation is not a minor offence, he points out. But the sentence is discretionary, unlike the mandatory life for murder. The provocation can be

considered in mitigation.

Hannana Siddiqui, of the Southall Black Sisters campaigners, says the judiciary still has lessons to learn about the experience of battered women. "But Emma's case and Kiranjit and Sara Thornton's cases were instrumental in getting the judiciary, the public, the media and Parliament to think about domestic violence as an issue of importance."

Ms Siddiqui fears that recently there has been something of a judicial backlash. The Sisters were furious when the conviction of Zozra Shah, who murdered her abusive lover, failed to be overturned at the Court of Appeal earlier this year. "But the public is still behind us," Ms Siddiqui says. "There was a sense of public outrage in Zozra's case and Emma was part of building that up."

Julie Bindel says Justice for Women intend to set up a prize in Emma's name. It will go to someone who fights violence against women. "Emma was a great campaigner. She never stopped wanting to change things."

The group also intends to cam-

In most cases, women have to wait until their batterer is asleep before being able to hit back

paign for changes in the prison system. Intensely critical of the amount of medication they claim is prescribed in women's prisons, Justice for Women want a greater emphasis on counselling. They also believe there should be an inquiry into why so little support was available to this badly damaged woman let loose into the world after serving more than 10 years inside. "Were it not for her friends, she would have died before now," Ms Bindel says.

Rohit Sanghvi says that Emma Humphreys never really had a chance. "She didn't have a chance in her childhood or in her adulthood. She was faced with so many problems. She spent the whole of her adult life, from 17 to 27, in institutional custody and when she was eventually freed, she was given very little support. She was out at sea on her own."

But she was a "lovely individual" who converted herself into being a fighter. "She had inner strength of courage to refuse to accept her guilt for murder," he says. "She left a legacy which women all over the country should be incredibly thankful and grateful for - how to be stubborn when you're right."



Emma Humphreys on the day of her release from prison

Richard Lewis

Would you walk through fire for your boss?



Fire-walking could be the least of your worries as your colleagues fall out around you

Making your employees jump into rivers and walk over hot coals might seem like a good idea - when you're sitting in the boardroom. By Glenda Cooper

"IF THEY asked you to put your hand in the fire I suppose you'd do it?" your mother always sighed. Well if you are a trainee at one of the biggest insurance companies, she was right.

Seven trainees at Eagle Life Star were hospitalised after a day-long "motivational course" at a hotel near the company's headquarters in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. After a day of problem-solving games, trainees removed their socks and shoes and were invited, for the final exercise, to walk on a bed of hot coals. Eagle Life Star said a "full and frank internal inquiry" was in progress.

Ah, the joys of motivational weekends. What is it about management theorists that they think if you have not spent a weekend together learning how to get from one side of the room to the other without touching the floor, or energetically painting each other in the countryside, then your company will never make the FT-SE 100?

The idea behind such courses is that workers should learn more about each other, learn to trust their colleagues and become highly motivated. The reality can be that people end up injured, humiliated or falling out, and the majority of the bonding happens in the pub - just like a normal weekday.

But that doesn't stop people doing it, as the recent successful television

programme *Neville's Island* showed. It followed four fictional businessmen from Salford on a team-building weekend to discover hitherto hidden talents and skills. Unfortunately they got lost instead and mayhem follows.

However funny *Neville's Island* was, it was no match for real life. One of the most amusing events of last autumn was when William Hague took the Conservative party on a bonding weekend in Eastbourne. The MPs reacted with different

"We're looking for things that will help people discover how they can use their initiative."

Which, according to the chief of an electronics company who has been on a different firewalking course, is not always what happens. "Oh they say no one is compelled to walk across the coals but you're made to feel such a jerk in such a subtle way if you don't do it," he says. "It's all such a big show. They get people all hyped up and then they're left to go flat. They often

conceding that the most recent outcome was less than ideal, Ms Isaacs said that other Eagle Life Star courses had been very successful in building up team spirit.

Those who have been on courses themselves are less sure. A management consultant is still sulking about one course he went on some years ago. "You had to make something out of limited materials; paper, scissors etc, and see which would travel furthest," he said. "We made a paper boat but the people who won made a catapult. I suppose it's all very well, but there's no skill in the construction of catapults like there was with our boat. Everyone normally ends up falling out anyway when someone starts an argument because you won't do it their way."

And one former bank worker remembers with gritted teeth another motivational course: "We had to prepare a presentation for the last day, to be given at 8am. It was basically made up of impossible tasks so that by 6am we were all hyper on blood sugar boosts or killing each other with tiredness. We finally got it sorted by about 6am, only to be told as we walked into the presentation room that there were no presentations - it was to monitor how we operated under stress."

So what happened? "Everyone got drunk and shagged each other. Well at least some kind of bonding was achieved."

People end up injured, humiliated or falling out and the real bonding happens in the pub

degrees of enthusiasm - Nicholas Soames refused to go on principle. Stephen Dorrell went with a wardrobe of quite unmissable jumpers and Alan Clark was ecstatic, saying he wouldn't miss it for the world (until someone pointed out he had misheard the word bonding).

Debbie Isaacs, spokeswoman for Eagle Life, was keen to point out that the firewalking was the culmination of seven months of training and that, in the past, they had found similar courses "highly motivational, team building, confidence building". In the past, however, they had restricted themselves to adventure courses.

have very good material, there are good techniques but in the end it's all made into a show and I think that's prostitution."

Common techniques that are used on management courses also include hugging and kissing your neighbour in order to "break down comfort zones". Impact Development Training uses what it calls a "pamper pole" - a telegraph pole that you climb to the top of and then jump through a trapeze. This, it is said, is designed to develop support and trust.

Those who use such services are fiercely protective of them. While

You ask the questions

(Such as, Julie Burchill, what advice would you have given Diana, Princess of Wales, what would you say to *HELLO!* and do you still read the *NME*?)

THE JOURNALIST and novelist Julie Burchill, 38, was born in Bristol. In 1976 she started working at the *New Musical Express*; her six books to date include the best-selling novel *Ambition*. This year she published her autobiography, *I Knew I Was Right*. Aged 20, Burchill married Tony Parsons; they had one son. She then left him for the journalist Cosmo Landesman, with whom she had another son. She left Landesman for a well-publicised affair with Charlotte Raven, now editor of *The Modern Review*. Burchill lives in Brighton and her current boyfriend is Charlotte Raven's younger brother, Daniel.

If you could have asked Diana, Princess of Wales one question before she died, what would you have asked her?
Lucy Wedekind, Leicester
I would have asked her if Prince Charles was as appalling a sexual partner as that sort of man - self-pitying, middle-aged, conceited - usually is.

Which woman and man would you most like to have lunch with?
C Smith, Canterbury, Kent
My boyfriend's mother, Susan Raven, and my boyfriend, Daniel Raven. I know that these are somewhat sickly answers, but I cannot imagine preferring anyone's company to theirs. I have often had lunches with both of them individually which have started at 1pm and ended at 7.30 in the evening.

When did you last read the *NME*? What did you think of it? How did you vote in the last election?
Dave Howe, Hamwell, London
They sent me one about six months ago when it went all *NME Lite* with staples and colour and print that doesn't come off on your hands.

I would no more buy it now than I would buy *The Lady*. That world doesn't exist any more. I thought it was tragic, but it's been like that ever since Ian Penman left.
I have only ever voted once and that was for Michael Foot's Labour Party. For the rest, they have been a bunch of tossers, and that goes for Mrs Thatcher too. Yes, I was wrong.

Was everything really so much better when you were young?
Callum Jacobs, London
Not a bit of it. I'm sorry if I ever gave this impression. I loathed punk, particularly, and was extremely glad when it finished.

What's the most embarrassing thing you have ever done?
Pauline Young, Preston, Lancs
Being best friends with Toby Young. One night we cut our thumbs and mixed our blood. I could die to think of it now. The only thing I'm grateful for is that I never slept with him.

Which writer do you most admire, and which is your favourite film?
Paul Laurence, Oxfordshire
Patrick Hamilton is my favourite writer and *Heavenly Creatures* my favourite film.

What recent movies have you most enjoyed?
John O'Byrne, Dublin
Face/Off and *The Wedding Singer*.

Do you ever feel intellectually intimidated? If so, by whom?
Dan Thornton, Birmingham
By the brilliant feminist writers Andrea Dworkin, Susan Faludi and Elizabeth Wurtzel; by my friend Ian Penman, probably the world's greatest living writer; and by Professor John Carey, a magnificent man, commendable bee-keeper and all-round lovely little thinker.

If it was death, or sex with David Mellor, which would you choose?
Liz Corbett, Somerset
Could I plump for sex with a dead David Mellor?

Is there anything that ever makes you feel humble?
Simon Fletcher, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire
Everything about my dad: Charlotte Raven with her clothes off (from memory); the sea; Graham Greene; trades unions, especially when leading strikes; people dying for what they believe in most of all.

If you could have offered Diana a single bit of advice, what would it have been? Do you think you'd have got on well together?
Charlie Sardon, Poole
Of course my advice would have been "Don't do it." I think we'd have got on well together on a superficial level because I'd have made her laugh, and she needed a few more laughs in her life. Then I'd have had a few drinks and started going on about class war and she'd have got bored and made her excuses and gone to the gym.

What are your drugs of choice?
Mick Yorkie, North Yorkshire
Zantac 75.

If *Hello!* wanted to visit your home would you let them?
Hannah Marshall, Cheshire
Certainly not. The bloodstains on the ceiling would be hard to explain.

What makes you cry?
Kate Hardwick, Glasgow
Practically everything. I once cried at an episode of *Charlie's Angels* involving someone being burnt. I tend not to cry over things which mean the most to me, believing tears to be inherently frivolous.

Would it be fair to say that, at a certain time in your career, you have admired your reflection in the pond so much that you have occasionally fallen in?
Liz Hemming, Ealing

Yes, in common with most micro-celebrities of the Eighties, but what differentiated me from the others was the very large measure of self-deprecation, rompsiness and cynicism that characterised my canonisation of myself. I was always making fun of myself, in a Dame Edna type of way. I always presumed I would have a drastic fall from grace and go looking for another life.

I don't think that this can really be said of Nik Kershaw and Neil Kinnock.

Do you ever try to diet? If not, why not? If so, why?
Sharon Burton, Norwich
No, I don't. When I was young I was the thinnest, prettiest girl in London and I wasn't particularly happy, especially from the age of 13 to the age of 24. My sex life in particular was pathetically underdeveloped until I put on weight and met my second husband.

As you lose your beauty, you tend to develop other skills, and I have never been happier with that side of things.

Also there is something horribly man-pleasing about working to "keep" your looks. It really seems to annoy men if you let yourself go, and I'm all for that.

Do you ever wear leggings?
Esther Shaw, Clapham
Is this a trick question?

What do you wear on the beach?
Sylvia Giles, Bath
A black one-piece, but I insist that my boyfriend stands by at all times with a large tarpaulin lest small children run screaming.



Is there anything you miss about not living in London?
Polly Smyth, Sussex
Not one damn thing.

Who is the person you know most of your secrets?
Rick Hale, Croydon
My boyfriend.

He's known everything about me for almost three years now and he still isn't out the door. That's what I call a man.

Do you wonder whether, if you had not nicked Charlotte Raven from Derek Draper, any of this cash-for-access scandal would have happened?
Robert McGrath, Canterbury
Had I not nicked Charlotte, Derek would probably have sold her to Mohammed Fayed by now.

Julie Burchill's biography 'Diana' is published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson, price £20

Next week:
MICHAEL WINNER

Please send any questions you would like to put to film director Michael Winner to: You Ask The Questions, Features, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5DL; by fax on 0171-293 2182; or e-mail them to yourquestions@independent.co.uk by lunchtime on Friday 17 July.



THE IRRITATIONS OF MODERN LIFE

5. FUSSY EATERS
By VIRGINIA IRONSIDE,
AGONY AUNT



RECENTLY I ordered a large piece of chocolate cake in a restaurant. "Naughty, naughty!" said my friend, wagging a finger at me. On another occasion, when I ordered a salad, it was, "Oh, aren't you being good. I suppose I ought to have one too."

Naughty? Good? Ought? I was simply having what I happened to want; there was no morality in it at all. My friend's voice was the voice of the food freak, who has lost all sense of his or her personal dietary judgement and sees food in terms of what we ought and ought not to eat. Any apple with a little bit of brown on it has to be thrown away because it is "bad"; any lettuce full of greenfly is chucked rather than washed, picked over and served.

I have seen whole cheeses binned because they had developed mould around the edges. I always take a knife to the mould and eat the rest.

Recently I left some lamb in the fridge and found, by using the ancient art of sniffing, that it was on the turn. There were shiny greenish bits on the sides. I simply sliced them off, ran it under the tap, and grilled it. I could not help grinning wickedly as I served it to someone who normally threatens illness if the word "off" is mentioned and who, in the event, declared it "delicious" and asked for more.

Did he have a tummy-ache afterwards? Not a twinge. My mother used to scrape green pork under a tap, then grill it, and we all lived healthily and happily to tell the tale.

And anyway, a lot of food is improved if it is slightly "off". One of the sad things about beef is that it is unhung and therefore tasteless these days, and never was a peasant put

on the table in grand country houses until the first maggot had appeared in its innards. Some of the best foods - cheese, sour cream - are "off". (I never understand why sour cream has a sell-by date; when mine develops mouldy spots I spoon them off and eat the rest.)

The result of today's preoccupation with "health" is that we are increasingly unhealthy. Recently it was revealed that the reason more children are developing asthma is because the air is getting cleaner, so any stray fumes that pass by result in dangerous choking fits.

When we lived through London fogs and wood smoke, there were far fewer cases; we had become immune.

As for food, you cannot go on holiday these days without someone developing tummy troubles. As a result of my robust eating habits I was the only one on a trip to Egypt who came out of the whole experience unscathed.

I refuse to be bullied by the food freaks. I use my eyes and my nose to dictate what is fresh, and if I am at all uncertain I cook it for a very, very long time. The result is that I can tell a fish that is off long before my friends who rely not on their noses but the label.

If you have read this article you probably would not want to come to dinner with me. But then, most likely you would have to cry off anyway, with a tummy upset brought on by a titchy bit of mould on a strawberry yoghurt.

Look at me, on the telly again

TV quiz show mania is creating a breed of contestants who will do anything to get their face on the screen. By Meg Carter



'King of quiz shows', Trevor Montague (centre), with 'Fifteen-To-One' presenter, William Stewart

A PECULIAR case made it to Wandsworth County Court, south London, yesterday: that of Regent Productions vs Trevor Montague. Regent, in case you did not know, is one of the UK's leading TV quiz show producers and maker of Channel 4's *Fifteen-to-One*. Mr Montague, meanwhile, is a self-styled quiz show king.

At issue is the programme producers' claim that Mr Montague broke the quiz show's rules by taking part three times - once in heavy disguise, and under an assumed name, "Steve Romana". By all accounts, he was rather successful. He eventually won the grand final and prizes said to be worth more than £3,000 - prizes which Regent's owner and quiz show presenter, William Stewart, now wants returned.

Fifteen-to-One's rules stipulate, you see, that contestants can take part only once except under special circumstances. Mr Stewart, it seems, is eager to dissuade others from following suit and claims that Montague enjoyed an unfair advantage through his deceit. Mr Montague, meanwhile, is astonished at all the fuss. "There was no intention to defraud," he told the *Daily Mail*. "I just enjoy taking part in television quizzes."

He is not joking. Montague is little short of being a quiz show addict. Not only has he dropped out three times on Stewart's show, he has also notched up appearances on 70-plus TV and radio quizzes, including *The Krypton Factor*, *Mastermind*, *Brain of Britain*, *Today's the Day*,... oh, and he won *Winner Takes All*. He is not alone. More cable, satellite and soon, digital TV channels, means more TV quiz shows. And more wannabe contestants.

Mark Nyman, producer of Channel 4's longest-running quiz, *Countdown*, reports a steady rise in interest among people wanting to take part. "Growing opportunities to participate in TV quiz shows has certainly fuelled demand," he says. "In the 16 years since *Countdown*'s launch, we've featured 1,600 contestants. And applications continue to pour in."

The selection procedure is simple. Producers place an advertisement in the press and wait for applications to come in. Wannabe contestants are then interviewed for prime-time entertainment shows such as *Blind Date* and the Price is Right, to ensure they have a "bubbly" TV personality. "We look for people who are primarily good at playing *Countdown* at home," Mr Nyman adds. "Roughly one in seven gets through."

Nineties quiz show producers do not like to use contestants more than once; it spoils the illusion that anyone at home could play. There is something odd about the same people cropping up time and time again, one researcher confides: "It smacks of fixing, even if it's totally beyond the producers' control."

Back in the Fifties, US networks came unstuck when, after they had relied on a number of top-rating quiz shows to boost their ratings, evidence emerged that sponsors had rigged the shows to favour the contestants most popular with viewers. Today, programme-makers are still quick to distance themselves from any whiff of impropriety or unfairness - most now carefully log all past contestants' details and studiously cross-reference these with every new applicant.

In spite of this, a number of serial players regularly slip through the net. Elisabeth Jardine, seaside landlady and one-time "queen of quizzes", appeared on more than 16 separate programmes, winning a range of prizes including foreign holidays, a hush trolley and a trouser

press. She caught the bug 15 years ago, following an appearance on Bob Monkhouse's *Family Fortunes*.

Opinion is divided on what motivates these compulsive contestants. Undoubtedly, prizes can be a major draw. With no ceiling now on the value of winnings that TV quiz shows can offer, prizes are steadily increasing - one show even offered a brand-new house, to the value of £100,000. Industry rumours now circulating include plans for an ITV quiz promising a prize pot of £1m.

But, for many, just as big a motivation is proving you can win. Or, to put it another way: showing off. One quiz show addict, a bank manager's secretary with a point to prove, says: "I was thrown out of university after failing my exams and never

rated my general knowledge." Mrs Jardine, meanwhile, admitted in an interview with the *Sun* to a fondness for "sneaking up with a good dictionary" of an evening. Oh, and a long-standing desire to be an actress.

For others there is the chance to widen your social circle. Pam Robinson, a civil servant whose TV quiz show appearances include *Rumoury*, *Connections*, *Concentration* and *Win Lose or Draw*, told an interviewer: "It's like a little club. You make friends with all sorts of people and everyone has great fun." And, of course, there's the "buzz".

Dave Smith, a notorious serial day-time TV talk show participant who has appeared on dozens of shows, including *Kilroy* and *The Time and the Place*, observes: "I used to go along for the crack. Until I got bored, that is. Which was closely associated with programme-makers starting to scale down their hospitality. Five-star hotels and champagne? It's a thing of the past."

Back at *Countdown*, Nyman has his own theories. "They do it for the love of the show. The prizes we offer are 'fun' - goody bags with T-shirts, that sort of thing," he says. "People enjoy the TV experience. It can be a great buzz - equivalent to a pop group going on stage to do a gig. Perhaps, for some, going back to their normal lives once it's all over leaves them feeling flat. So they go out and do it all over again."

Which brings us back to Mr Montague. On Monday, he insisted that his addiction was never motivated by a desire for personal material gain. Glass decanters and a vase were among his allegedly ill-gotten gains. But, it seems, it was the taking part that really mattered.

Waste not your tears on him, however. Consider, instead, the fate of Mrs Mary Reeves of Calverton, Nottinghamshire - the eagle-eyed TV viewer who blew his gaff. For it was she who recently saw Mr Montague's covert 1992 appearance repeated on a cable TV channel and correctly identified Steve Romana as Mr Montague. An addiction indeed.

Do the Wall Street shuffle

Rock stars seldom have sound business heads. While the media have been harping on about the Rolling Stones' tax avoidance plans (including rescheduling their UK concerts for another tax year) and Elton John's costly separation from his long-time manager, John Reid, U2 - who have always been thought to be one of rock's most financially sensible acts - have been having a few problems.

Reportedly worth a combined £350m, Bono, The Edge, Adam Clayton, Larry Mullen Jr and manager Paul McGuinness (an equal partner in a five-way split) have kissed goodbye to at least £10m over the last few years. A rock management source was quoted in a Sunday newspaper as saying, "If you look back at their earnings over the past 20 years and ask what they have to show for being one of the world's leading rock bands, you have to conclude that they have nice houses and that is it."

Most of the money they lost was invested in Germany to build leisure centres, bowling alleys and laser shooting games facilities. Alas, after buying up prime sites, they subsequently discovered that war games with replica guns are banned by the German government.

Should U2 want to try and recover some of their financial outlay, here are some simple do's and don'ts to maximise income and ensure peace of mind.

Do... retain your own publishing rights. That's where the real money is. Just ask Paul McCartney, who is still trying to retrieve Northern Songs, the Beatles catalogue, from Michael Jackson. Still, Macca has made up for his disappointment by buying the copyrights of over 25,000 songs (including all the works of Ira Gershwin and Buddy Holly as well as "Happy Birthday"). His old Wings cohort, Denny Laine, made the unfortunate mistake of selling his share in "Mull of Kintyre" to his former colleague.

Do share royalties equally to avoid resentment from other band members. The Damned's Brian James was clever enough to put his name to all the songs on the group's first album; after he was edged out, communal credits were decreed the norm. The former Smiths drummer, Mike Joyce, sued Morrissey and Johnny Marr for withdrawing royalties and won £1m. Ron Wood was only made a full member of the Rolling Stones ten years after he joined on a salary. Being to all intents and purposes Simply Red, Mick Hucknall has kept the other band members on wages.

Do write or record soundtracks. Elton John made a small fortune from the *Lion King*, while Simple Minds' breakthrough hit, "Don't You (Forget About Me)" came from *The Breakfast Club* brat-pack movie, after Bryan Ferry and Billy

Idol had both turned down the chance to contribute.

Do licence your songs for soundtracks and commercials. In 1991, Mick Jones was only too happy to allow Levi's to use The Clash's "Should I Stay or Should I Go" for a TV ad. Mick Jagger and Keith Richards earned \$5m by lending "Start Me Up" to Microsoft for their Windows 95 awareness-building campaign.

Do hang on to your merchandising. James's income from the sales of T-shirts kept them going before they signed to Mercury.

Do keep an eye on your affairs. Unlike Sting, who didn't notice that Keith Moore, his accountant, had appropriated £4.8m of his £90m fortune.

Do read your contract. Bros famously signed away 20 per cent of their gross income to their manager, Tom Watkins.

Do keep the taxman happy. Learn from the mistakes made by James Brown (in 1975, the Godfather of Soul owed \$4.5m in back taxes), Sly Stone (in 1976, he filed for bankruptcy after failing to pay tax) and Pink Floyd (in 1978, the collapse of investment company Norton Warburg left them liable for huge back-taxes on money that had by then vanished).

Do keep a diary of your comings and goings. Otherwise, all those tax-exile claims might just fail. In 1975, Rod Stewart nearly stepped on to British soil when changing planes at Heathrow. Realising it would have jeopardised his tax-exile status, he wisely stayed in the international departure lounge.

Do invest in property. Unless you're Mick Fleetwood. In the early Eighties, the Fleetwood Mac drummer bought American and Australian properties but the mortgage repayments soon exceeded his monthly earnings. By 1984, he owed \$8m and declared himself bankrupt. The real estate dealings of Sheena Easton, however, help bring her in around £15m a year. She spends most of her time in the States these days, tending her Jaguar collection.

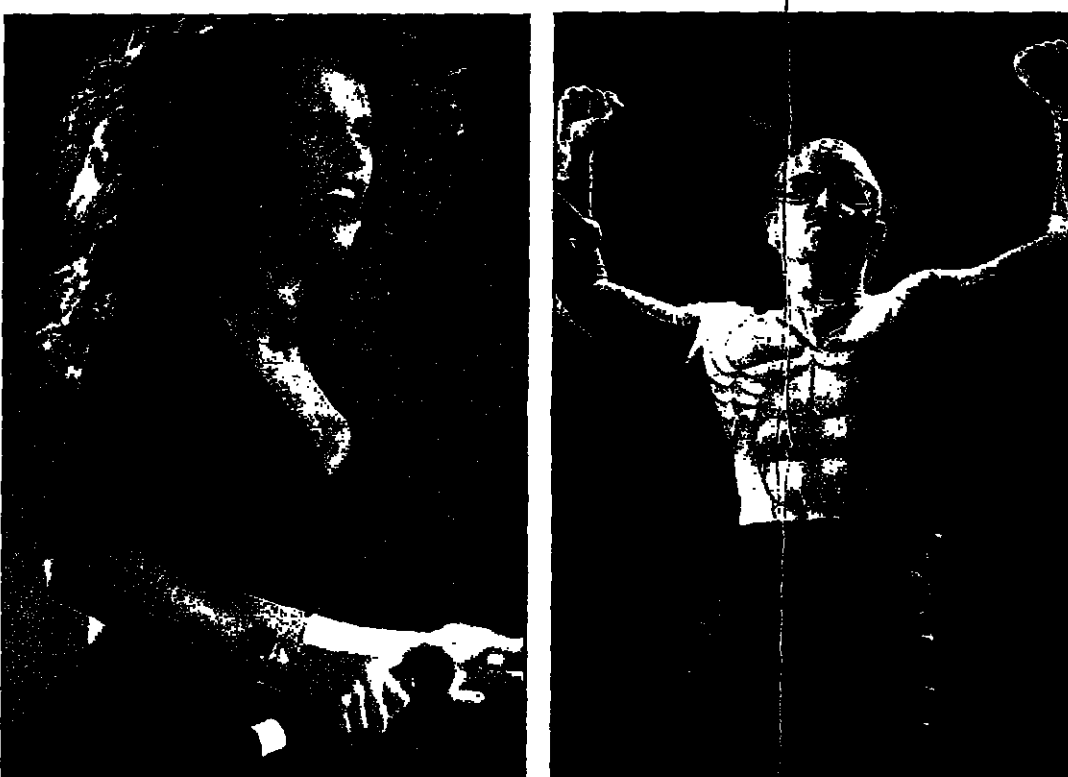
Do release the archive stuff fans clamour for. Bob Dylan, The Beatles, The Who, Frank Zappa, Jethro Tull and Van Morrison have dusted off work in progress and assorted shelved tracks to beat the bootleggers.

Do an audit of your overseas and domestic royalties. Allen Klein impressed The Rolling Stones and The Beatles because he discovered overlooked monies from major record companies.

Do sell bonds against the income from future royalties. David Bowie and Rod Stewart have both increased their personal fortunes this way, and the Stones are said to be considering a similar move.

Do invest in fish. Jethro Tull singer Ian Anderson has done well out of his salmon farms in Scotland while Roger Daltrey favours trout-rearing in Sussex and Dorset.

Taxmen, swindlers and parasites have always been the bane of rock musicians, and though U2 are respected as celebs with business heads, even they foul up. Did no one tell them there were good reasons not to set up a chain of laser-gun games in Germany? Or that fish farms are what the sensible star buys into these days? By Pierre Perrone



Ian Anderson of Jethro Tull (top), and Sheena Easton made shrewd investments in fish and property respectively. U2's Bono was less well advised

Don't... invest in something you know nothing about. In the late Seventies and early Eighties, Stig Anderson, the late Abba manager, had set up various companies to help reduce the group's 85 per cent tax burden. Since they were selling records behind the Iron Curtain, the group and Anderson started to accept payment in kind, anything from potatoes to crude oil. Pretty soon, they had a company called Pol Oil listed on the Stockholm stock market. Following a sudden drop in the average price of a barrel, the whole house of cards collapsed and an investigation into Abba's affairs was launched. An out of court settlement with the Swedish Inland Revenue saved the group further blazes.

Don't farm your own label. The rock 'n' roll road is littered with the white elephants of vanity labels. John Lennon once told an interviewer, "If Apple goes on losing money at the same rate, all of us will be broke in six months." Others didn't learn. Even with Jimi Hendrix on board, The Who couldn't keep Track of The Stones' manager, Andrew Loog Oldham, failed with Immediate and the Stones started their own famous tongue-decorated imprint on which their records (and only theirs) still appear. Elton John's Rocket, Gary Numan's Numa Records, Mick Fleetwood's Zoo, Paul Weller's Resound and Dave Stewart's Arson have all floundered. Led Zepplin's Swan Song, Frank Sinatra's Reprise and Madonna's Maverick are the exceptions to the rule - though they were as much an attempt by majors to placate their acts with new business ventures.

Don't get the family involved. Dad Buster Pearson notoriously mismanaged Five Star's money, while in 1988, after auditing his books, Billy Joel had to fire his manager and former brother-in-law, Frank Weber. Mind you, Ozzy Osbourne's wife, Sharon, has put him back on the straight and narrow.

Don't build your own recording studio, unless it's a small one in the basement of your house. With the cost of maintenance and upgrading gear, you'll lose out. Particularly, don't buy one in central London. Paul Weller had to sell off Solid Bond near Marble Arch.

Don't give a percentage of your future earnings to the label you're trying to leave, unless it's the only way out. Soul Asylum guaranteed points to A&M before moving onto Sony and Pulp came to a similar agreement with Fire before signing to Island.

Don't finance a bad movie out of your own pocket, unless it's a tax write-off. Chris Rea lost £15m on *La Passione*, one of the worst movies ever made. George Harrison was doing well out of *HandMade Films* (*The Life of Brian*, *Time Bandits*) until his partner, Dennis O'Brien, handled affairs so badly that Harrison eventually won a judgment against him for £5.7m.

Don't get divorced. Rod Stewart,

Mick Jagger, Mick Fleetwood and countless others are still paying their ex-wives for it.

Don't part with your manager. He'll want a cut of future earnings. The Spice Girls had to give Simon Fuller £10m, and The Rolling Stones and The Beatles paid through the nose to get rid of Allen Klein.

Don't release too many dodgy compilations. They will affect the value of your catalogue later. New converts to the Rolling Stones and The Kinks never know which album to buy.

Don't buy cars, especially if you don't drive. The late Who drummer Keith Moon would crash anything (Rolls Royce, milk float, hovercraft) without even leaving his property. Mick Fleetwood couldn't resist collecting Jaguars and AC Cobras. Jason Kaye of Jamiroquai owns four Ferraris, three BMWs, two Mercedes and one Aston Martin. Trouble is, his friends keep borrowing them and crashing them. At least Pink Floyd drummer Nick Mason is sensible enough to rent out his Ferrari 250GTO and the collectible BMWs, Porsches and Jaguars he also owns.

Don't smash up equipment you can't afford to replace. The Who took years to clear debts accumulated while demolishing guitars on stage. At T in the Park, Symptomus wrecked £3000 worth of gear. Their fee for appearing there: £1000.

Don't go shopping. Elton John must have spent millions on clothes, spectacles, fine art and records.

Don't buy a football club. Elton John is never going to make a penny out of his investment in Watford FC, and even the football-mad Rod Stewart stuck to supporting Scotland. The footballer Jim Kerr of Simple Minds could be involved in a bid to buy Celtic.

Don't buy horses. Ron Wood lost a packet on Acera, a racehorse he acquired with the snooker player, Jimmy White.

Don't adopt the lifestyle of a world megastar if you're a big fish in a small pond. Gary Glitter and Status Quo squandered millions trying to lead the life of Riley when they were only attractions in the UK.

Don't get involved in litigation. Just after the success of *Born to Run*, Bruce Springsteen's career was on hold for nearly a year as he tried to free himself from the clutches of Mike Appel. A settlement out of court did the trick in 1977.

Don't sample the wrong song. Allen Klein keeps the royalties from The Verve's "Bittersweet Symphony", which samples an instrumental version of "The Last Time" under his copyright. And don't plagiarise a major hit. UB 40 lost a lawsuit over "Don't Break My Heart", while George Harrison was judged to have copied The Chiffons' "He's So Fine" with "My Sweet Lord" and lost half a million dollars.

Don't do drugs. How do you think Mick Fleetwood lost track of all his money?

Good looking



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The femme is not so fatale

SEX, CIGARETTES and bull. There has to be more to the enduring popularity of Bizet's *Carmen* than that. What is the secret of her allure? The femme fatale factor is wearing a little thin. In these politically correct times, once-ardent feminists are now more likely to disown her. She is suddenly the free spirit who lost her way; a user, a selfish bitch. Who is the victim now? Carmen or Don Jose? And who is dancing to whose tune?

Tune? Tunes. A glorious succession of them. And surely that is what *Carmen* is all about - melodic allure. You can lose most of the dialogue, you can scrap the production, and the drama - such as it is - is carried in the melodies, the songs, the "numbers". Therein lies

the allure, the passion, the obsession. The secret of the world's favourite opera's success. Which is why the London Symphony Orchestra, under its principal conductor Sir Colin Davis, was wise to schedule not one but three concert performances. Which is why it still managed to sell out Barbican Hall on World Cup final night. Which is why *Carmen* is so truly international, why she travels so well.

"She", on this occasion, was Olga Borodina, a star of the Kirov Opera - a *Carmen*, if you like, from a cold climate. And my goodness, didn't we feel the chill. There was nothing, but nothing of the heat and dust about her. Dressed to kill in black lace, sequined shoes and a strategically placed rose, the

CLASSICAL

CARMEN

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
BARBICAN HALL

only "travelling" this gypsy had done was between engagements. A class act, a well-honed nightclub turn. *Carmen* of the Rainbow Room.

This is a terrific voice, make no mistake - a flexible, versatile voice well-schooled and well-practised in the highly specialised art of "Carmenising". Borodina had listened to, and worked hard at perfecting, the gamut of *Carmen*'s effects - the nasal French vowels, the croony insinuations, the glottal stops, the smoky half-voicings. And she took her

time accommodating them. Her *Habanera* and *Seguidilla* were showstoppers in quite the wrong sense. Artful in quite the wrong sense. *Carmen* is nothing if not elemental. Somewhere between Siberia and Seville, Borodina had mislaid the character.

Which left that mummy's boy Don Jose with much of the credibility and all of the stage. Jose Cura seized it. His charisma is almost the equal of his hype but that is the way audiences like their tenors - and this one is swarthy of looks and voice. When Cura turns it on (and he did here, he really did), you can hear and see why he is in such demand. The baritone colour of the voice is more than a match for the physique. The two do not often go to-

gether. But what I wouldn't give for a few extra colours, for some phrasal elegance, for real *piano* singing as opposed to just the occasional *mezzo-voco*. Not since Domingo have we really had it all.

But at least Cura represented a burst of Latin temperament in an evening dominated by Slavs. Andres Dankova will be a better *Micaela* when she can, in every sense, extend her vocal reach (it is a little short, a little frayed, at the top; the aria was quite a stretch). Nikolay Dobrev (*Escamillo*) will not be a better anything until he learns to sing in tune. An inexplicable piece of casting, this.

No, it was the Brits. Susan Gritton (a feisty Frasquita) and Neal Davies (*Dumcaire*), who

stole the honours for singing French as it is spoke.

They and the LSO Chorus, whose assorted bands of gypsies, soldiers, and cigarette girls (yes, a few tag-along Lills among the sopranos) were projected with exciting immediacy and amplitude.

But that is the big advantage of a concert performance. To hear Sir Colin Davis and the LSO really splash this colourful score across the Barbican platform was the greatest pleasure of the evening. The woodwind playing was a joy from start to finish. Those are the voices I shall remember. Bizet ruled, France won.

Carmen continues tonight and Friday. Box office 0171-362 7000. EDWARD SECKERTON

Head east for western promise

PLENTY OF Asian musicians are adept in Western classical idioms, but Western musicians rarely return the compliment. That may have to change as an emerging generation of Asian composers finds new modes of expression that, on the evidence of Guo Wenjing's double bill of one-act operas at the Almeida, will extend the range not only of performers, but of opera itself.

In James MacDonald's well imagined stagings, both *Night Banquet* and *Wolf Cub Village* show a highly original sense of operatic possibility. Guo Wenjing has written extensively for film and tele-

vision, which may not earn him much respect in the West, but has apparently taught him how to delineate his dramas economically. His chamber-size orchestra, superbly conducted by Brad Cohen, consists mostly of Western instruments, the players often required to extend their technical skills with "exotic" stylings: lavish glissandi, plucked piano strings, wordless vocal ulula-

tions and so on. With four percussionists in an ensemble of 17, the writing for the percussion is particularly rich and diverse.

For *Night Banquet* (there receiving its world premiere), Guo Wenjing also includes a pipa (Chinese lute), played with wild virtuosity by Wu Man, who is on stage for much of the opera. If the singers are not wholly at home with the micro-tonal inflections of Chinese singing, their characterisations are unfailingly intense.

In *Wolf Cub Village*, Nigel Robson plays a madman convinced that everyone he comes in contact with wants to devour

him. As all good conspiracy theorists know, the fact that you are paranoid does not mean they are not out to get you, and this madman's dementia contains a great deal of good and common sense. Robson's performance is painful to watch, but it is impossible to take your eyes off it.

So, too, Geoffrey Moses's scholar-poet in *Night Banquet*, who sets out, by means of prolonged debauchery, to disqualify himself from the corruption of political office. As Moses languishes in raddled dissolution, his favourite concubine the excellent Yvonne Barclay asks: "Did you need

to do all that to avoid becoming Prime Minister?" An acerbic comment on political life, both Eastern and Western.

The operas are sung in Chinese, and translations are incorporated not as surtitles that annoyingly take the eye away from the stage, but as part of the *mise-en-scene*, on a screen tucked behind the poet's couch in *Night Banquet*, and in Jeff Sutton's atmospheric video installation that embodies the madman's turmoil in *Wolf Cub Village*.

Such imaginative touches typify MacDonald's direct but subtle productions. A Western composer attempting what

this double bill pulls off so triumphantly might be accused of the heinous crime of orientalism, and, who knows, maybe a Chinese perspective might find Guo Wenjing guilty of occidentalism.

To these Western eyes, though, the results are witty, engrossing and wonderfully operative. There are not many new British operas you can say that about.

Further performances of both productions at the Almeida Theatre, London W1, tonight, Friday and Saturday. Booking: 0171-359 4404. NICK KIMBERLEY

Be afraid. Be very afraid

It's a decade since La Fura dels Baus last appeared in London. But they're not something you'd easily forget. By Judith Palmer

One thousand people are herded, bewildered, into the pitch dark of an east London warehouse. Shuffling, excitable, curious, they edge their way through waves of smoke, deeper into the wall of pumping techno, and wait. An hour later they will emerge, separated from their friends, mud-spattered, exhausted, exhilarated. The legendary Catalan performance troupe La Fura dels Baus is back in town.

It has been 10 years since La Fura was last in London. Then, punters arrived at the ICA and were taken on special charabancs to the unregenerated Docklands. This time, we made our own way to Bromley-by-Bow, filing under the lorried roar of the Blackwall Tunnel approach road, via the Tesco Superstore car park, over the glistening, green-weeded creek to the closeted isolation of Three Mills Island Studios.

Follow the frock coats and mutton-chop whiskers as 180 Japanese actors in bustles pick their way over the cobbles. You are on the right path. Mike Leigh is filming his new Gilbert & Sullivan biopic here.

Weave past the east-house, the mill, the gin distillery and the laboratory where they discovered cellulose, to Studio Five, where they filmed *Kavanagh QC*, the dictator-baby car ad and the Cantona Euro-star commercial. Yes, that kind of studio. Not studio theatre. Aircraft hangar theatre.

Enjoy the journey; it is part of the experience. In any case, La Fura dels Baus is not so much about where you go as how you got there. "Feel first. Meaning comes later," says Fura boss Pera Tantina. "You experience conventional theatre with your eyes and mind. We want you to experience our shows with your stomach."

More than a million people worldwide have had their entrails manipulated by Tantina's company in the 20 years since it was founded. Three friends from the tiny village of Moia met six more performers in Barcelona and started putting together anarchic travelling street shows in 1979. Shows and venues got bigger - factories, cathedrals, stations - until, in 1992, Fura massed 1,000 performers to stage the opening ceremony of the Barcelona Olympics. Now, apparently, Mandelson wants them for the Dome.

La Fura dels Baus translates as the ferret from the small smelly stream in Moia. "It means nothing," says Tantina. "It is the sound and feel of the words that is important."

The same goes for the name of this production, *Mones*. "Nothing is fixed," says the director, Beth Escude i Galles. "The audience can choose their own meaning."

And so into the dark. Bodies pushing bodies into the void. "Where are you?" "I'm here. Who's that?" "What's that?" A glimmer of flame in the distance, and we edge in-



Tolling bells, wafts of frankincense, reeks of sulphur, showers of water, flour and sawdust turn the floor to slime. Thank heavens for sensible shoes...

Nicola Kurtz

stinctively towards it. Naked people above us are burning something. Noise, smoke, disorientation. Heads turn. Something is happening on the ground over there. We can't see, so press closer towards the thumping sounds. Elbows, feet and other people's shoulders are in the way. Then "Wargh!" We can't get away fast enough. The crowd scatters. Huge, egg-shaped wooden barrels are tumbling towards us, and we run. Bare-bottomed medieval types in grubby singlets howl and holler

through the crowd, with flaming firebrands in their hands. The crowd splits, then splits again as we flee from these mad men and women. Wooden tumbrils, metal lighting rigs and telegraph poles hurtle by us and at us from all directions. Madwoman One swings a chain round her head like a Highland hammer-thrower; Madwoman Two screams and jabs out her torch, dripping hot wax on to a madman's shaved head. Tolling bells, wafts of frankincense, reeks of sulphur, showers of

flour, of water, of sawdust, turn the floor to slime. Thank heavens for sensible shoes. Leapers and alms-seekers process in mock-ecclesiastical rapture, and how readily we join their processions. Twitching bundles are laid on the floor; bandaged baby parcels writhing like giant maggots and letting off a cacophony of wails. Amid fiery explosions the troupe hauls poles into a circle, hanging aloft and juddering a convulsive dance; a central, up-ended figure has a blood-soaked chicken ripped from

her pregnant belly. Eggs fly, chicken heads are bitten off in an Ozzy Osbourne snarl, and the seething, primordial jabber of it all begins to lose momentum. Smash the shell and this hard-boiled performance turns out to be rather soft and yucky. "Soft. Far too soft," agrees Escude i Galles. "They've been on holiday for three days since we left Copenhagen. Tomorrow we crack the whip at them."

This first night has been tricky, adjusting to the bigger space and tougher audience. What is more, there has been no time for the hour of Aikido the company routinely uses to build energy and focus itself before a show. The performers are supposed to empty their minds before they can empty the audience's. Tantina says: "Fear is an important part of the show. You need to break away from the mind. In conventional theatre, you pay for a piece of seat. This is your property. No one can touch you there. You are safe. We need to change the aud-

ience's sense of security, in order to open their minds and let them feel. "It is not important whether the audience like it. What is important is that they remember the show a year later. The most terrible thing is to go to see something which you've forgotten in a week. No chance of that."

Greenwich & Docklands Festival, Three Mills Island Studios, Hancoc Road, Bromley-by-Bow, London E16 1JN. To 19 July (0181-853 4444)

Just blew in from the plaguey city...

THERE ARE very few subjects that could not, in theory, provide the basis for a musical, but bubonic plague must be pretty high up on the list of those that would have difficulty surviving even a moment of idle contemplation. Stephen Clark - the lyricist behind the relaunched *Martin Guerre* and writer of *Take Away*, the acclaimed slice-of-Chinese life recently seen at the Lyric - has clearly thought long and hard about Eyam, the Derbyshire village near where he grew up. The village shut itself off from the outside world after being stricken by the plague of 1665, a misfortune that was later attributed to a rat flea in a parcel of cloth from London. The dramatic possibilities presented by this collective act of self-confinement must have seemed good enough to outweigh any hesitations about taste in the writer's mind.

From afar, Eyam might even have looked like a musical Eden. And it is as a rural idyll that we first see the village. Like expendable extras in a disaster movie, the inhabitants sing away as they garland lupins and harebells into intricate well-dresses to be offered up in time-honoured thanks to the water that sustains them. Into this paradise creeps the oleaginous new rector, William Monpesson (earnest-eyed Peter Prentice) with wife and kids in tow. His congregation's immediate disdain soon ruptures into outright hostility when people start dropping like flies. A few cling to the superstition that this wolf-in-shepherd's clothing has infected his flock and seek to scapegoat him. The majority are deeply resistant to his swift insistence that they martyr themselves to the contagion rather than let it spread. The journey that both sides make,

ON THE FRINGE DOMINIC CAVENDISH

as the Grim Reaper goes about his work, from mutual distrust to a more Christian love and understanding, might have jolted an audience into engaging with the tragedy. But despite the best efforts of the director Clive Paget to create striking choreographed moments, a helping hand from Stephen Sondheim and a cast bursting with energy, Clark's libretto and Andrew Feggie's rock-inclined score restate the dilemmas in the blandest way for some two-and-three-quarter hours.

As though afraid to produce the equivalent of "Auschwitz, the musical", the production avoids any overt depiction of the plague - there is not a bubo, pustule or blemish in sight.



Ellen O'Grady as Joan in 'Eyam'

The lyrics equally prefer saccharine triteness to any ugliness. In what should be a key opening number, the first victim, the dressmaker, spends excruciating minutes singing the praises of his cloth, repeatedly wondering:

"Was that a moth?" By the time you get to the closing sentiments - "I never thought making plans for tomorrow would seem so exciting" - you will be lucky not to feel nauseous.

At the New End, there's another non-starter, although the idea behind *The Curse of Tittikhamon* is that it celebrates its own living deadness. Armed with a one-man special effects department (able Mark Barlow), a cast read through a Seventies spoof Hammer horror movie script by Michael Armstrong that never got made. The result is a nightmare hybrid - something between a live radio play and a student revue. The idea that a theatre should be the repository for such junk is the evening's only sick joke.

'Eyam', Bridewell, EC4 (0171-936 3456); 'The Curse of Tittikhamon', New End, NW3 (0171-794 0022)

DEBUT

THE ACTOR: Eileen Atkins
THE TIME: 1953

THE PLACE: Regent's Park Open Air Theatre, London
THE ROLE: Hippolyta in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'

MY FIRST real job on leaving drama school was with Robert Atkins at the Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park. The first play I had ever been taken to see was *King John* at Regent's Park when I was 12, and I had written to him saying I had enjoyed the play very much, but thought the boy playing Prince Arthur was bad, and I would have been better.

He wrote back saying "well if you think you can do better, come and show me." I turned up at the theatre dressed up to look about 35 and knocked on his dressing-room door. He had this amazingly grand, plummy voice. He asked me who I was and when I explained, said: "I don't give jobs to shop girls." I, in all innocence, replied: "I'm not a shop girl, I'm a schoolgirl."

He had another look at me and said: "All right, come and show me what you can do." So I went into the tent and did Prince Arthur's speech and he said: "Well, you're quite right, you are better than the boy we've got, but you're too young. If you take up the theatre, then let me know."

He obviously thought he'd never hear from me again. It just so happened that he gave me the Shakespeare prize at the Guildhall School of Music in my last year. He remembered me and invited me to come and work at Regent's Park. I was 19. I had a walk-on in *Twelfth Night* and *Jacqueline*, the country wench in *Love's*



Labour's Lost, for which I got a mention in the *Evening Standard*.

I happened to overhear Atkins discussing *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with the designer. There was another girl called Amanda Fox in the company and he said: "Well now, what are we going to do about Hippolyta? Amanda's got the body and no voice and Eileen's got the voice and no body." Later he told me he had decided to give me the part. I said: "What are you going to do about my body?" He replied: "We're going to build you up. We're going to give you a bosom!"

Unfortunately, we were rained off for the rest of the season so I never got to play the part, but it was an idyllic summer, which I always look back on fondly. I thought life was always going to be like this and that work was going to come easily, but it dried up and I never met anyone quite like Robert Atkins again. I didn't get regular work until I was 27. I had no idea then what hell it was going to be.

Eileen Atkins is starring in *The Unexpected Man*, 8pm, Duchess Theatre, WC2 (Phone 0171-494 5075)

Pass notes in the game of love

THEATRE

WHAT YOU GET AND WHAT YOU EXPECT
LYRIC HAMMERSMITH
LONDON

"WE'RE IN a bedroom farce," remarks Natalie, the central character's wife, after some surprise extramarital sex. We are, however, a million miles away from Ray Cooney.

Despite this being a comedy of sexual to-ing and fro-ing between two warring architects, their lovers and their potential employers, the playwright Jean Marie Besset has more in common with Yasmina Reza, also French, the author of the smash-hit *Art*.

Although written several years earlier, *What You Get and What You Expect* simply is not the sort of philosophical comedy that is written here. Besset may be writing about men jockeying for power positions, but he is also investigating power and male sexuality. Tense but patient Philip has been

shortlisted for a potentially life-changing architectural competition to design the first monument on the moon. His rival, the unscrupulous, smooth-talking Robert, all Nehru collars and slicked-back hair cunningly taunts him with tales of fancy backstage finagling on the dinner-party circuit. Robert knows how to play the game, and that's what this is all about. Robert has seduced Madame Kanter, the no-lapels, no-mercy civil servant in charge of the competition.

Married Philip, meanwhile, is thrown by the discovery of his boyhood lover, Hector, in a key position to influence the outcome of the competition.

Besset translated Stoppard's *Arcadia* into French, so it is no surprise to discover dialogue-heavy scenes in which ideas and aphorisms spiral upwards. It could have been an arid evening of intellectual plate-spinning but, for the most part, the production is an intriguing success.

Tim Shortall's set is the last word in modish, minimalist chic, with its gleaming steel wall, button-backed double doors and two curved steel benches bedecked with crushed velvet cushions. The actors are similarly well groomed, notably Simon Dutton, relishing every moment as the repellent Robert. Jessica Turner is scintil-

lating as Madame Kanter. It is a high-status role that could all too easily be played on one note, but Turner brings an astonishing range of light and shade to the part. Her hilariously withering disdain makes Sigourney Weaver in *Working Girl* look like a playful kitten.

The self-conscious dialogue has a tendency to bounce back and forth too easily, leading you to the suspicion that director Thierry Harcourt has been seduced by the surface. Some of the allusive, brittle exchanges have more layers than he uncovers, but there are moments of real depth.

The high point is the scene where Hector tender Alex McSweeney describes how, if you sat still in one place, everyone you have ever known would eventually pass by. Throughout the

tense speech he moves painfully and inexorably towards Philip, his lost love, who cannot bear to look at him, before slowly slipping his hand inside Philip's shirt. It is desperately sad and extremely erotic.

Much of the success of the evening is ascribable to the pin-sharp translation by Jeremy Sams. His trademark wit is there in abundance, but it never intrudes. Post-coital sexual puns about spreadsheets and things which "just mount up" are sewn into the fabric, and the momentum of the phrasing means that this high-wire comedy manages to be both funny and provocative.

This review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper
DAVID BENEDICT

Bhutto denies kickback charges

BENAZIR BHUTTO, the former prime minister of Pakistan, appeared in court yesterday to answer charges that she received more than £2m in kickbacks on a government contract for hundreds of Polish tractors.

Ms Bhutto, 46, denies the charges, which have been brought against her by a special investigating commission set up by the present government in Pakistan. They claim that Ms Bhutto and her husband earned hundreds of millions of pounds from corruption before being dismissed from power 18 months ago. Three other corruption charges have been registered against Ms Bhutto by the investigators. She denies all of them.

In violent scenes outside the court, in the north-eastern city of Lahore, supporters of Bhutto's Pakistan Peoples Party were beaten-charged by police. Twenty-five people were injured, one seriously.

The demonstration was the first of a series that party leaders said were planned for the coming weeks.

Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister, and his Cabinet have been widely criticised in Pakistan for mishandling the economy since the country's nuclear tests nearly two months ago.

Despite still retaining a massive majority in parliament, popular support for Mr Sharif has been severely eroded by recently introduced economic measures, which have hit the middle class and the poor.

In the past week strikes have gripped the country. In the north-western city of Peshawar police used tear gas to disperse rickshaw drivers protesting against the price of fuel while in Karachi and the east

BY JASON BURKE
in Karachi

of the country thousands of retailers have shut their shops to demonstrate against the planned extension of sales tax.

Mr Sharif has always been seen as the champion of Pakistan's commercial classes and to lose their support is a serious blow.

Speaking outside the court yesterday Ms Bhutto said that the time had come for a broad-based coalition administration.

"The formation of a national government is the only solution to the problems facing Pakistan," she said.

At the weekend Ms Bhutto signalled to other opposition groups that she was interested in working together to oust Mr Sharif.

Talking to reporters at Karachi airport on her arrival from Dubai on Sunday evening she offered to negotiate with the Muttahida Quami Movement, until recently allies of Mr Sharif and bitter enemies of the PPP.

Ms Bhutto's husband Asif Ali Zardari also appeared before the Lahore court to answer separate charges relating to a series of Swiss bank accounts he is alleged to have used to launder the proceeds of corruption and, according to government investigators, drug smuggling.

Earlier this month a Swiss judge formerly indicted Mr Zardari on money laundering charges and said he planned to indict Ms Bhutto shortly. Mr Zardari denies the charge.

In a bravura display of courtroom defiance yesterday Ms Bhutto repeatedly accused the judges of bias and said that all the charges against her were politically motivated. The case was adjourned until 20 August.



A highlander of Yemen, where the number of guns is estimated to be more than three times the population of 16 million *Patricia Aitken*

Three nuns shot dead in Yemen

A GUNMAN who had fought in Bosnia shot dead three Catholic nuns from Mother Teresa's order in Yemen yesterday.

"A man suspected to be an Islamic extremist opened fire on three nuns and killed them instantly," said an official from the governorate of Hodeida, 140 miles west of the Yemeni capital Sanaa.

The official said the nuns, employed as nurses by a char-

ity, were killed on their way to work. Two of them were from India and one from the Philippines.

Residents detained the gunman immediately after the incident as he tried to escape. They handed him over to the police.

About a dozen nuns work in the medical profession in Hodeida, a Red Sea port. "The interrogation of the killer, who used a Kalashnikov, is still

going on... He confessed to the crime and said he would go to heaven," the official said.

The suspect, Abdullah al-Nashiri, 22, from Sanaa, had said during questioning that he killed the three nurses because they were "preaching Christianity".

The official added that the suspect had fought in the Bosnian conflict as a volunteer in 1992. He said that Nashiri had lived in Bosnia since 1992, had

acquired Bosnian nationality and had married a Bosnian woman.

Many Muslims went to fight alongside their brethren in the Bosnian war.

Residents said it was the first report of violence in Yemen against the nuns, who have been providing humanitarian help in the impoverished state for several decades.

More than 100 foreigners, including diplomats but mainly

tourists, have been kidnapped by disgruntled tribesmen in Yemen since 1992. Most were released unharmed.

Guns, mainly Kalashnikov automatic rifles, are openly carried in Yemen, one of the poorest Arab countries.

Unofficial estimates put the number of firearms in the country at 50 million, more than three times the population of 16 million.

— Reuters

Serbs claim victory at Kosovo road link

SERBIAN SECURITY forces announced yesterday they had captured a stronghold of Kosovo Albanian guerrillas in a campaign to regain control of main transport routes across the province.

Serbian state television broadcast what it described as footage of ex-Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) positions in Lapusnik, "a notorious terrorist base", which it said security forces had won back on Sunday. The footage showed

trenches, ammunition, communication equipment, a heavy machine-gun, rebel uniforms and a makeshift surgery.

The Serb Media Centre in Pristina, the Kosovo regional capital, said the security forces had unblocked most of the Pristina-Pec road at the weekend, eliminating several dozen KLA barricades along the way.

If true, Lapusnik's capture would underline a shift in fortunes for the KLA, which has seized up to half of Kosovo

since February only to get knocked back by a recent Serbian counter-offensive.

The KLA's momentum began to falter when it was repelled by superior Serbian firepower in an attempt to take its first big town, Oradovac, a week ago.

The Serbian offensive has coincided with an increase in shooting incidents along Serbia's border with northern Albania, a backwater used by the KLA to muster fighters and weapons.

The Albanian Interior Ministry said Serbian troops fired at the Albanian police building at the border checkpoint in Morini early on Sunday, then tried to shoot their way through.

In Tirana, the Albanian government denounced Serb "provocations" of Albanian forces along its border with Kosovo and called on Belgrade to respect its territorial integrity. Tirana said Serb artillery shells have landed on its

territory four times in just over a week, branding the incidents as attempts to engulf it in a wider war.

In Brussels, it was announced that three senior officials from the European Union will go to Belgrade today for talks with the Yugoslav Foreign Minister, Zivadin Jovanovic, about the Kosovo crisis. A request to meet Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic remained unanswered.

— Reuters/AP

Tidal wave deaths hit 2,000

THREE TIDAL waves that devastated Papua New Guinea's north-west coast 10 days ago killed at least 2,000 and the death toll is likely to rise further, rescue officials said yesterday.

They also said another three miles of coastline around Malol would be added to an area of about 45 square miles already sealed off around Sissano lagoon because the area had become badly contaminated by decomposing bodies.

The latest figure is an increase of about 500 known to have died when the three tidal waves, called tsunamis, hit on 17 July.

Police commissioner Peter Algio said 10,068 survivors had been identified and 1,131 people had been treated in hospitals since the waves of up to 10 metres swept over a string of small fishing villages around Sissano lagoon.

"The death toll so far is 2,000 and this figure is expected to increase as more bodies are recovered from the Sissano lagoon and the mangrove swamp," Mr Algio said in a statement dated 26 July but released yesterday. Up to 3,000 people may have been killed, authorities say.

Many of the victims were children and education authorities were attempting to work out how many of the 1,139 students enrolled in four local schools and their 54 teachers survived.

The discovery by United States tracker dogs of another 52 bodies around Malol village near the lagoon at the weekend came as relief agencies tried to resettle thousands of homeless people.

Ed Wolf, a dog handler, told Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) radio that the four dogs had become disoriented and exhausted because they were not used to finding so many bodies in such a short space of time.

Rescuers said the bodies had begun to decompose under the tropical sun to an extent that retrieval was almost impossible. Crocodiles feasting on the remains had also become a threat to rescuers.

— Reuters

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The right shades for you

Sunglasses always look great. As long as you're a model, that is. So we took a selection of frames on to the street to find out how mere mortals looked through glasses darkly. By **Melanie Rickey**. Photographs by **Donna Trope**



Mrs Peretti in tortoise shells, £89, Gucci



The Hon Mrs Laura Brand in plastic aviators, £29, by Fabris Lane



Tom Trope in plastic wraps, £97, D&G



Abiola in gold wire frames, £99.99, Police



John Lewis in frames, £150, Kirk Originals



Leo in "Dean", £225, Kirk Originals



Sylvia in black cat-eyes, £85, Valentino



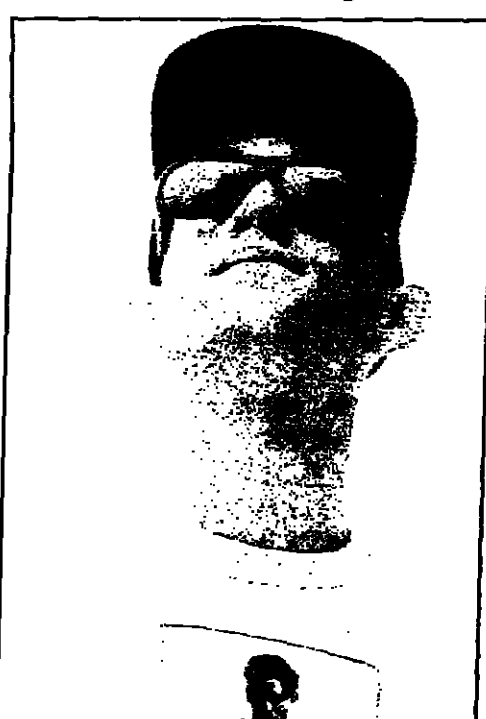
Shirley Grubman in navy, £100, Björn Borg



Leo in wire rims, £127, Calvin Klein



Mrs Brand in visor, £34.99, Storm



Perou in chrome, £64.99, Red or Dead



Ruth Williams in two-tones, £99, Fabris Lane

Everybody knows that finding the "right" pair of sunglasses is a lot more difficult than it looks. First you have to try on about 10 pairs to find which style best suits your face shape. Then colour and adaptability have to be taken into account. The last and, for some, most important factor is "fashionability".

What is in fashion for sunglasses in 1998 is as hard to work out as a cryptic crossword. Last year men went crazy for sports shades from Adidas, Oakley and Nike, while women opted en masse for the oversized and glamorous Jackie O look.

Within just a year things have changed drastically. Chuck out those silver wraps - they're over and done. Jackie O? No.

This year sunglasses fashion is all about revisiting and re-creating the heady days of Halston, disco fever, and Seventies chic as gold-rimmed aviators with a graduating dark-to-light-brown tint have begun to appear on fashionable faces - see Gucci, Police,

Fabris Lane, Boots, Woolworths or Red or Dead. But that is just for real fashion junkies. According to Angela Campbell, an optician with three stores in the Manchester area, the sunglasses-buying public simply will not accept all the trends and would rather pick from a more subtle blend of factors. "It's all down to the quality of the frames and lenses," she says. Indeed, with the proliferation of fashion designers who have recently put their name to sunglasses (Jil Sander and D&G being the newest arrivals), the look of the frames is just the starting point.

The most frequently asked questions in shops that sell sunglasses are about protection from the sun's harmful rays. Fortunately, legislation introduced last month means that these queries are unnecessary. Now all sunglasses manufactured to European standards will say so: look for a little "CE", (which means "conformité européenne") stamped on to the frame.

This "CE" means that the sunglasses have 100 per cent UVA and UVB protection (if shades do not sport a sticker or the new stamp, then they do not). But

do not worry if you don't find the "CE" just yet - the new frames will take a while to filter into the shops.

Back to fashion. Angela Campbell used to sell lots of specialist sunglasses brands, such as Ray Ban, but the designers have taken over. "They have definitely become the easiest way of buying into a designer label," she says. "Gucci shoes cost nearly £400 but the sunglasses cost just over £100." This summer belongs to the diffusion range D&G, she says. "They are different from everyone else's; the shapes are fantastic and they suit everybody."

Sunglasses Hut chain and the opticians David Chulow agree. And how do they know? Because D&Gs practically sold out as soon as they were put on display. In fact they have probably defined the look of summer 1998. The shapes are sleek, refined and oblong rather than rounded, while the frames are metallic, not chunky and plastic.

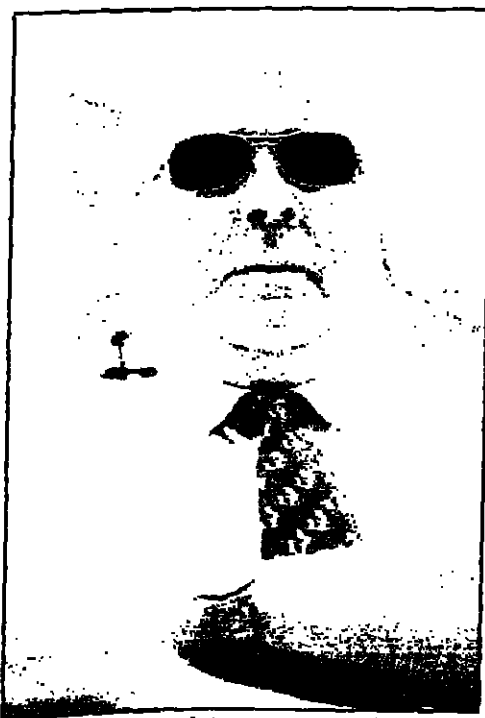
Another success story is Fabris Lane, the Anglo-Italian company that launched in 1994, and which now sells its diffusion line Fabris Lane Italia in 2,000

Boots stores across the UK, as well as designing ranges for Next, Warehouse and Oasis. It also has a hand-made range of 30 exclusive styles. It produces a "high summer" range (it has just hit the shops) which, says director Fiona Lane, is "what we feel is very hot and very now". And they are. The quality is there, the look is there, but the best thing is the price, from £28. These are fashionable sunglasses that can be worn without guilt for just one season.

To celebrate the August release of the film *Avengers* cK Calvin Klein eye wear has launched a pair of shades inspired by Emma Peel. Called *Hoenger*, they are bug-shaped and have the cK logo stamped into the side arm in dark silver. We have five pairs in black with smoke-tinted lenses for the first five readers to send a postcard to: *The Independent*, Fashion Avengers offer, 1 Canada Square, London, E14 5DL. The *Hoenger* sunglasses, cost approximately £70, will be available from the first week in August in stores nationwide. Enquiries: 0800-722 020

NAMES ON THE FRAMES

Police: Larger Boots (01923-249 491)
Valentino: 01423-538 005
Gucci: 01423-538 005
Red or Dead: Vision Express, branches nationwide (0800 73809)
Fabris Lane: Boots and Harvey Nichols (0181-974 1642)
Storm: Carnaby Street (0171-388 6656)
Kirk Originals: 36 Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-240 5055)
Björn Borg: David Clulow opticians, 185 Kings Road, SW3 (0181-864 4040)
Calvin Klein: Dolland and Aitchison (0800-722 020)
D&G by Marcolin: Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge SW1, (01635-529 997)



John Lewis in aviators, £79.90, Police



Mrs Peretti in perspex, £70, Red or Dead



Ruth Williams, in aviators, £79.90, Police



Sylvia, in silver frames, £195, D&G



Tom Trope in wraps, £97, D&G by Marcolin

A better class of saving

It can cost a small fortune to educate children, but forward planning will ensure they make it to class. Rachel Fixen begins a series on families and finance

HIGH FEES put private schools out of reach for most parents. Mark Grey, of the School Fees Trust Scheme, calculates that it will cost him £120,000 to send just one of his children to a relatively cheap day school. This figure is daunting, to say the least, especially for young parents already coping with the mushrooming cost of family life.

But choosing where a child is to be educated is one of life's most important decisions, so a way of financing school fees often has to be found. This has spawned a whole industry within financial services.

Despite the cost, the proportion of children at independent schools has been rising for the past decade and, Mr Grey says that applications do not appear to have been affected as yet by the demise of the assisted places scheme. "What you get from an independent school is the choice to select the right education for your child," he points out. "If they're artistic, you choose one that is strong in art."

Around 80 per cent of people with children at private school manage to pay for fees out of current income, according to the School Fees Trust Scheme, which protects school fees should parents die or become terminally ill.

But even parents who cannot see their salaries stretching to that, could - with a bit of planning - still afford an independent school.

Starting early is key, says Dawn Slater, of the independent financial advisers Dawn Slater Associates. "Parents have to start as soon as possible to get as much cash accumulated as they can, because school fees are so unpredictable."

Fees per term at private day schools (ages 11-18) range from £1,300 to £3,500, according to the Independent Schools Information Service. For boarding schools the fees are far higher. But school fees are rising much faster than retail price inflation or wage inflation, at around 6 per cent a year.

In principle, saving for school fees is the same as saving for anything else. You can use any one of a number of investment vehicles - such as endowments, unit trusts and investment trusts.

But as fees are generally payable by the term or the year, you can maximise investment growth by



Parents who want the best for their children can end up paying a fortune for an education at a school like Eton

tying up the money for later school years for as long as possible.

How much would you need to save? Assuming school fees are £1,500 per term and will rise by 7 per cent a year, sending a child now one year old through school and university from age 11 to 20 would cost £139,719, Dawn Slater calculates. To fund this from capital, you would need £87,000 to invest now. Or you could fund it by investing around £450 a month in an endowment or unit trust facility.

Clearly, the sooner you start investing, the more time your money has to grow. But plenty can still be done, even if you have left it late.

Draw-down mortgage schemes make the most of equity in your home to raise additional borrowing and are often combined with investment schemes, such as endowments, which enable you to repay the loan.

Keen competition between mortgage providers means that simply by remortgaging your home you can cut your interest payments.

To see a child through a senior school with fees of £1,500 per term would cost around £35,000, starting now. The monthly interest on the mortgage borrowing would be £745 per £1,000, at 8.95 per cent variable rate. Interest payments would increase as the money available under the mortgage facility was gradually drawn down. An endowment or FEP would usually run

alongside this to pay off the mortgage borrowing, which would cost a 35-year-old man around £223.60 per month over 10 years.

Don't think you're out of the wood when children leave school. There is always university. Starting from this autumn, university students whose parents or spouse earn more than £23,000 a year gross will have to contribute to fees, up to a maximum of £1,000 a year. Even if your child is eligible for a full grant and takes out a student loan, you may need to help with the cost of living away from home.

This year, a full grant topped up with a student loan adds up to about £4,370 for a student in London. But the National Union of Stu-

dents argues that people really need about £7,000 a year to keep their heads above water. Including fees, for a three-year course, you could expect to pay anything up to £24,000 in today's prices for each child in higher education.

If you had 16 years to save before your daughter started at university, putting away £88 a month in an investment vehicle that gave an average return of 9 per cent a year might cover the cost.

This assumes tuition and living costs adding up to about £5,000 a year in today's terms.

Dawn Slater Associates: 01635 45325; School Fees Trust Scheme: 01372 377817; ISIS: 0171-630 8793/4

Arma against a sea of troubles

Managing agents must prepare for the new leasehold laws. By Karen Woolfson

THE DIFFERENT personalities involved in the debate over leasehold reform make a fascinating combination. Barry Gardiner, the MP for Brent North who spearheaded the influential all-party group on the subject, has fallen into a leadership role. He labels himself an incurable optimist, and there is no doubt that this quality is what drives him to leap out and take action.

While his researchers are busy combing through six box files jam-packed with letters from leaseholders, Mr Gardiner is out there taking on the likes of the Association of Residential Managing Agents (Arma).

Mr Gardiner was invited to speak at Arma's recent annual general meeting, which is a big step, and an acknowledgement of necessary change by the association's executive secretary, David Hewett. Mr Gardiner may have felt like Daniel going into the lions' den, but his humour and conviction allowed him to scrape through at feeding time.

He began: "The leasehold legislation in this country is about to change. I have no doubt that it is why you have invited me to address you. Much of this change will profoundly affect the way in which you do business. You may not like it, but you recognise it is better to prepare for change rather than ignore it."

He went on to state that Arma's members act almost entirely as the agents of the freeholder side of the divide, but the Government has "clearly stated its overall objective is to provide leaseholders with the opportunity to reap the full benefits of owner-occupation" and to have control over the way their homes are managed. The message is that their future lies in acting as the agents of the leaseholder side of the divide.

Arma does have a code of conduct and members are also required to comply with the management code of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. Mr Hewett says the association will look at complaints where these codes are transgressed, adding concern would be shown "if a person was not being given access to underlying details".

If managing agents were tightly regulated and strictly licensed, Arma could help educate members

in the new laws and provide courses in communication skills. Mr Gardiner named some members who are allegedly not complying with the rules - apparently to diverse reactions. He said transgressions included not holding AGMs every year, high service charges and presenting accounts late or not at all. If Arma wanted to improve the image of managing agents, it will have to take strong action if members are found not to be complying. Mr Gardiner stressed: "It is admirable to have a code of practice

It is ultimately for Arma to check its members' compliance - or lack of it

but of course it must be backed up by effective sanctions against any member found to have broken it. It is ultimately for Arma to judge its own members' compliance or lack of it. But Arma must be aware that leaseholders and, I may add, politicians, will judge Arma by the rigor with which it enforces its code."

Arma's Mr Hewett understands that, with leasehold reform around the corner, managing agents need to change, and is apparently willing to hear the leaseholders' perspective. The question is how he will face the challenge, given the potential resistance from members.

Mr Gardiner told Arma that if it wants to be given the level of access and input to Government consultation which it desires, then "it should set up a disciplinary committee with powers to reprimand, fine and ultimately to expel members who fail to act properly in accordance with its code of practice".

A regulator with teeth is still urgently needed for this industry.

Karen Woolfson welcomes comments. Write to: Homebattles, c/o Nic Cicutti, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5DL. Karen regrets she is unable to reply personally to all letters

THE NOVICE INVESTOR

'I was a wallflower at the privatisation disco'

I AM sometimes green with envy when I think of a very clever friend of mine.

For years now, she has been playing the stock-market, and she enjoys it.

It has not always been that way for her. Her father died suddenly without having made a will. The family finances were a nightmare and her mother just "couldn't cope".

They were forced to sell the family home in the middle of a recession and my friend had to "unravel" her father's stocks and shares because of poorly kept records. She had, she says, to "learn very quickly".

She slowly began to build her own portfolio. I watched as she bought a house that seemed far too expensive and needed enormous amounts of work.

By wheeling and dealing, she renovated it beautifully. She sold some shares when the house needed a new roof.

Then, when she wanted a new kitchen and conservatory, she invested in something that she predicted would make her a quick killing. She was re-mortgaging long before it became fashionable, and when she had finished doing up the house, she let it for a staggering £850 per week for three years to an American Bank.

Meanwhile, I was paying my mortgage, pension and council tax. In Leona Helmsley's eyes, I would definitely have been one of the "little people".

I never had any spare money to invest in any of the share tips my friend so generously passed on. I did invest in a Pep that I later learned had high charges, but at least a reasonable performance rate.

I was too nervous to take out a bank loan, even for those great value privatisations.

I was the wallflower at the privatisation disco and I could see every day how much I was missing when I glanced through the financial pages.

My jealousy was com-

After watching her friends reap the rewards of wise investment, Margaret St John decided it was time to earn the respect of her peers and start playing the markets

pounded by the knowledge that another friend had made £12,000 carpetbagging on the conversion of the building societies into banks. It had cost him about £4,000.

Suddenly, however, I have £2,000 to spend, and I am still eager to try my luck.

My cautious side still tells me

to check that everything in my financial life is in order. Recently, I went to my local library to check out their "How to" books on the stock-market. There are a huge number available, and they range from the humorous (Warren Buffet's musings are good value) to the downright dull.

of investing any spare cash. Another of the more sensible options was using my £2,000 lump sum to reduce my mortgage. Doing so would cut the cost of my monthly outgoings by up to £15 a month, or £180 a year, or £4,500 over the typical life of a mortgage.

In effect, the rate of interest "earned" by doing so is the rate that would have been charged on that part of the loan - effectively tax free.

I should have adequate life insurance cover but, more important, I should have a critical illness policy which would help with mortgage payments and for arranging care for my three children in case of disaster.

Before investing in the stock-market, I should really look again at Tassas, Peps and National Savings products because of their tax advantages and the need for a diversified portfolio. Only then should I make out an investment plan.

All this advice rather took the wind out of my sails.

Without saying so, the experts are really warning us that the stock-market is a form of gambling - a luxury that most people cannot afford.

We need to remember that shares are risky, but some are riskier than others.

"Diversification" was the word that kept cropping up, as having a number of shares in a selection of companies would reduce the risk of investing in one big loser. Investing for the long term was the only credible option for a small investor.

And timing was crucial, because we all want to buy low and sell high.

I had most things in order but not the critical illness policy, so I shall sort that out before talking to the analysts about my greatest fear of all. Is the stock-market too high? Have I missed the boat again?

This is the first of four articles by Margaret St John



Leona Helmsley looked down on the "little people"

Reading the books did focus my mind. All the books told me that I should have made a will by now. Making a will was in fact one of the simplest things I have ever done. Contact a solicitor, and for a straightforward will it will cost you only about £75 plus Vat - the greatest bargain in the field of law.

The books also said that I

should be making the maximum possible contributions to my pension.

I should have between three to six months' costs and living expenses in easily available savings accounts in case of emergencies.

Everybody I spoke to said all credit card debts must be cleared before you even dream

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Paul Gosling examines the Government's vision for making the public sector more effective

The drive for self-improvement

HEALTH MINISTER Alan Milburn last month spelt out the Government's vision for a more effective public sector. Speaking at the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy conference, Mr Milburn said standards would be raised across the public services, using local government's Best Value programme as a model for improving services while reducing costs.

Performance indicators will be widely used to benchmark service and management standards. In the NHS there will be a Commission for Health Improvement that will assess new clinical treatments to raise the standards of the worst performing hospital trusts to those of the best. In housing there will be a new inspectorate to ensure that social landlords deliver good quality homes. For social services there is likely to be a new system of independent inspections, removing the day-to-day role from local authorities. It is clear that the Government's vision is of driving standards up by using performance indicators, backed by a strong system of central inspection and auditing.

This does, however, raise the question of who will carry out the audits, especially when local authorities, in particular, have already complained of being subject to so many inspection systems that it deflects them from delivering services. The Best Value pilots are under way, yet it is unclear who will verify the outcomes to ensure that councils achieve continuous improvement. The pilot councils themselves seem to have very different views on how the system should be audited.

A White Paper on Best Value is expected in the autumn that should answer many of these questions. But it is likely that the Audit Commission will take a central role - the commission already oversees the auditing of councils and NHS trusts, as well as producing value for money surveys on local government and the NHS. The Local Government Association agreed last week to establish a management intervention service to raise standards in failing councils as support for the Best Value programme.

Andrew Foster is controller of the Audit Commission. He makes it clear that the commission makes no assumptions about what role it might take under Best Value. "The Government clearly hasn't finally decided how to deal with this, and we are all awaiting the White Paper with interest to see how it plans to allocate responsibility," he says. "There is a great deal still to learn about Best Value. We all need to be in learning mode about what government wants and how to fulfil it."

There has been concern that the aims behind Best Value are too subjective to be readily auditable. Mr Foster does not agree. "Every local authority is going to have to have a performance plan. I think that is quite possible to audit using the normal audit process. Then there needs to be a second stage examining how well a council has done against their plan over a period of time. Different authorities might adopt different standards. The local auditor can then report on how well each authority has done, and would also report on whether a council has carried out a major consultation process."

Another central element of Best Value will be the need for councils to adopt fundamental reviews of all services on a rolling basis, questioning whether they are achieving value-for-money whether the service standards are appropriate and what standards the residents themselves want, whether the service might be delivered in a better way or by a different contractor, and, indeed, whether the service should be provided at all. Mr Foster suggests that it is important for this process also to be audited, and raises the question whether it will be councils themselves that carry it out. "Government is talking of reviews of a fifth of services per annum," explains Mr Foster. "It will need to be established in which order these are reviewed. There is the possibility of a new standards inspectorate for this."

But the risk is that local authorities will be faced with too many inspection and auditing processes. Mr Foster is sympathetic to this fear, and welcomes signs from the Government that it wants to see more cohesion between the public-sector inspectorates, with the commission playing a constructive co-ordinating role. The commission will take on the new role of housing inspectorate, and it already operates joint inspection programmes with Ofsted (the Office for Standards in Education) and with

the Social Services Inspectorate, which could be a model for joint auditing and inspection processes for other local government functions. "I agree entirely that authorities must not be 'audited to death'," says Mr Foster. "It is important to reduce duplication. I think we can bring together our Ofsted, SSI and housing inspectorate work, creating a learning organisation to apply lessons learnt from one arm to the next. We can bring to bear the analytic approach from our value for money studies to the inspection work, and be the only inspectorate that can do that." Mr Foster welcomes the proposal to extend Best Value principles to the NHS, but warns that changes are needed for

the more centralised management systems of the health service.

There are particular challenges in auditing Best Value in local government. It is likely that the Government will want management improvement teams to go into failing local authorities to turn them round, imitating the approach taken with failing schools. But should the local auditor and the Audit Commission do this, and should they operate the management teams? Mr Foster is cautious about this: "Our general view is that our most important value is our independence. We have never taken on executive responsibility. We have never seen ourselves as part of a management team that runs services." To do this, he be-

lieves, would damage the credibility of its external audit role.

There are implications, under Best Value, for some of the commission's existing practices. In particular it readily admits that some of its performance indicators will have to adjust to the new climate, with local authorities setting more of their own performance targets in consultation with local communities. "We must be prepared to change our system on PIs," says Mr Foster. "If everybody else has to change for Best Value to work, then every rule that holds for them must apply to us."

The other element of the equation for achieving Best Value is also now becoming clear. Ministers have been talking for some time about sending in management teams to impose improvements where councils themselves seem unable to bring it about. They privately talk of the 10 per cent or so of failing councils where management standards are just not rising. The political difficulty is how to bring about change without being seen to be too heavy-handed with autonomous bodies.

Tony Blair hinted at the solution when he spoke recently of the need for the best local authorities to accept responsibility for the worst. And last week's conference of the Local Government Association agreed to set up a management improvement team, based on the management and training division of the Local Government Management Board. It has already been agreed that the LGMB is to be disbanded and transferred to the LGA. One outstanding question is whether this new body, instead of the Audit Commission, should also audit Best Value.

Len Duvall, chairman of the LGMB review task force, says that the important principle is that local government achieves self-improvement, rather than be subject to yet another quango. He believes the LGA's new agency should focus on defining and highlighting best practice. Often this will mean telling smaller councils about the successful innovations achieved by the larger authorities.

"Local government has itself to deal with the small number of failing authorities and services, by intervening effectively and fairly," says Mr Duvall. "We must put our own house in order and not wait for inspectors of the Government to do it for us."

Make no mistake, Labour in office is not abandoning the Conservatives' public sector revolution. Instead it is just taking a slightly different route.



There are doubts that auditing of local authorities and NHS trusts will produce benefits for end-users - the public and patients

Nice day on the phone, dear?

A new transport policy could finally make teleworking worthwhile. By Paul Gosling

It is not only the transport industry that is nervously awaiting the publication of the integrated transport white paper in the next few days. So, too, is the telecommunications sector, keen to see inducements for staff to work from home, thereby reducing the need for commuting while increasing the use of phones, faxes and modems.

But British Telecom, in particular, has been promising the new dawn of more flexible working for so long that people have stopped looking for the sun to rise. For several years BT has predicted a shift from office working to teleworking from home, yet the transfer has been so slow as to be barely discernible. BT claims that the time for teleworking has now arrived, bringing enormous advantages for a government wanting to take cars off the streets, and for employers keen to raise productivity and attract back into the workforce skilled people with domestic responsibilities.

Neil McLocklin is head of BT's workstyle consultancy group. The move to teleworking has begun, he insists. "We are talking about evolution, not revolution. It takes a long time to change the way we work, and society. We have done a lot of research - we are working with virtually every corporation. Some are now at early teleworking trial stage, others are thinking about it." BT believes that the range of benefits from teleworking is so wide that most large organisations will have to take it on board, at least for some of their staff, some of the time.



Will the transport White Paper improve matters for hard-pressed commuters? Geraint Lewis

Another factor is equal opportunities. "We are working with the AA at the moment, which has recruited disabled people to work from home," continues Mr McLocklin. "It

industry is providing its own impetus for teleworking. Phone calls come in peaks and troughs, rather than an even flow. Having some staff working part-time or on call, based at home, reduces overheads. It is uneconomic for employees to come in to work for a couple of hours, but short stints of work from home are more acceptable."

Claire Evans is telesales manager for Prudential Direct, which has just extended its teleworking pilot scheme because of its initial success. "We might need a certain number of people to work unexpectedly, perhaps because of something that has happened," says Ms Evans. "If we did not have people on stand-by all the time it would take half an hour to arrange, and by then the peak would have gone. On Boxing Day, we ran a service without opening the office by having people working at home."

Teleworking can allow organisations to achieve major savings in accommodation costs. Call centre operators can use smaller buildings to respond to average call flows, rather than cope with peak phone traffic. Surrey County Council has introduced teleworking as part of a plan to reduce the size of its property portfolio. When staff are in work they "hot-desk" - sharing desks instead of having their own.

All employers who have successfully introduced teleworking schemes agree that it is essential to adjust management styles to the virtual environment. Not all staff will respond positively to working from home - greater self-discipline is necessary. BT recommends that rather than leave employees isolated, a system of regular briefings inside the office is maintained, giving staff a continued sense of corporate identity and social contact. Carers working from home will still need to find alternative care arrangements while they are working. A call centre worker holding a crying baby does not sound professional.

BT made detailed representations to the Government as part of the consultations on the transport white paper, proposing ways to boost teleworking. An important step, it believes, would be to reduce tax relief on car use, particularly where it is graduated onto a higher rate for a greater mileage. Instead, BT would like to see tax breaks instituted for equipment installed at home to facilitate telework. Public bodies are also being asked to financially support local teleworking centres for use by people who cannot work from home, but who do not want to commute. The Government should also act as a good practice employer, says BT, by doing more to allow its own staff to work from home.

Teleworking expert Ursula Huws, associate fellow at the Institute for Employment Studies, says that it is not yet proven that the numbers of people working from home are increasing, though it seems to be true. In the last survey, in 1997, four per cent of people were spending at least one day a week working at home on a computer.

But Ms Huws warns against the assumption that an increase in teleworking will necessarily reduce road traffic. "You can't get a rail season ticket for less than a week, so people working from home some of the time are more likely to travel by car," she points out. "Or you might work for a more distant employer, so when you do travel to work, you travel further. And there is evidence that the less people travel to work, the more they travel for non-work purposes."

Regular briefings give staff a continued sense of corporate identity and social contact

About 18 days a year are lost per worker. Often they are well enough to work, but not to go to work

can provide an opportunity for integration of working life and lifestyle - one in six of the population are carers in some way. Employers such as law firms, which have invested heavily in high fee-earning staff, are being persuaded of the benefits of flexible working.

The expansion of the call centre

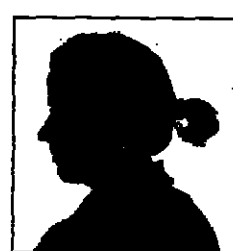
LAST WEEK'S proposed tie-up between the London Stock Exchange and its rival in Frankfurt were a godsend for the FX boys. With England out of the World Cup, opportunities for foreign-bashing were limited. But the Frankfurt connection gave them lots of German jokes to ease their boredom with the continuing strength of the pound.

As usual, out of hundreds of possibilities only one or two quips really caught the imagination of the FX boys - if "imagination" is not too strong a word to use. So, for the past week - and probably for a week or two to come - Marlene has been lauded with cries of "So, d'ya think the Krauts'll get up really early in the morning to reserve all the desks? Ha-ha-ha!"

What's particularly interesting about all this is Marlene's reaction - which is that she hasn't one. Not that the FX boys would notice; they may be able to tell whether a woman is wearing stockings at 100 metres, but otherwise their perceptions are pretty blunt. So while they are blissfully unaware that their xenophobic jokes aren't upsetting Marlene at all, I am curious as hell.

My theory, and Laura agrees with me on this one, is that it has a fair bit to do with the semi-handsome 20-year-old glib trader who joined us a few months back. Certainly he and Marlene go to massive efforts to avoid each other at work in the manner of people having office romances/affairs. Why they bother is beyond me, since in the normal course of events they'd have no reason to speak to each other in the office anyway. In fact, by ostentatiously "avoiding" each other, they only succeed in drawing attention to themselves. But then, perhaps that's what they want.

"Probably," says Laura. "they're both feeling terribly chuffed. He's smug as hell because this high-flying thirtysomething is showing him the ways of the world. And she's thrilled to meet someone who won't fall asleep



THE TRADER

at 10pm, or talk about mortgages, and knows there's no point trying to impress her so he'll just be himself."

"Humm, yes," I say, recalling my last few dates and quite suddenly seeing the point of younger men. So it's good timing on his part that a few seconds after this, Patrice rings to invite me for a drink.

I met him at his big sister's birthday bash last weekend, but resisted his Gallic charm on the grounds that, although handsome as Adonis, he is six years younger than I am. Now, the age gap seems an irrelevance. So we fix up a date for that evening and I put the phone down feeling rather pleased and modern.

"That's nice," says Laura. "You can celebrate France's World Cup win and Bastille Day in one go."

"I don't think I can," I reply. "The FX boys would be calling me a traitor for weeks if I did anything to suggest I don't actually loathe the French. I'm sure that's why no one bet on France winning the footie."

The next morning, I didn't feel like celebrating at all. Laura spotted the glumness at once, of course, so it was only fair to tell her why.

"It was all going so well," I whimpered. "Then he says he wants to ask my advice, and I feel my heart sink. Anyway, it seems there's this woman he adores to distraction - his words - but she doesn't notice him and what is he to do about it? He can't ask his sister because she won't approve. She's 35 or something ancient like that. So I'm depressed because I'm too young to be an older woman."

"Oh well," says Laura, consolingly. "One day..."

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It is not easy looking after number one

It is no wonder that so many high-profile men marry their secretaries. In an age of routine global travel, lightning communication and a long-hours working culture, PAs (the majority of whom are still female) are often connected by the working equivalent of an umbilical cord to their bosses: they fix appointments, defuse tense situations, sort out dining arrangements, buy birthday presents, and in some cases even look after the children. The age of the housewife may be in its death throes, but that of the multi-tasking, professional PA is well under way.

In the City, the male-female boss-secretary relationship is still much in evidence, but there has been a gradual shift towards treating secretaries as, if not exactly equals, then professionals, more than able to organise every aspect of their bosses' lives. Pippa Driscoll, who took a career break to have children and now works for an executive at the Prudential, enjoys her one-to-one role and finds it liberating. The key to a thriving, working relationship is, she says, primarily to be found in a personality match. "My boss is a dream to look after, but what's easy for one person is not necessarily easy for someone else. All the secretaries here can do the job standing on their heads, but it boils down to how you get on with your boss. Mine doesn't like to be fussed and mothered, and I'm fortunate that he's relatively well organised. I provide the back-up, and I have to be sensitive to the situation. In days gone by, you'd be sitting typing letters all the time, but now it's much more administrative and you have to be thinking ahead."

She knew her boss as a friend before she got the job, and mutual friends said she was mad to take

it. "But we can switch off, and it's purely business. We also share the same sense of humour."

That's a quality that Francesmary Kay, another professional administrator, often needs. Unlike Ms Driscoll, Ms Kay runs a freelance administrator team working for several different bosses on a one-to-one basis. Since she initiated her client base three years ago, after time out to bring up a family, she has seen it all, with a variety of tasks ranging from the sublime to the ridiculous: some of the more unlikely have been cleaning out a fridge full of rotting food, ordering a thousand hankies from Harrods, and organising feng shui for a fish pond.

The difference in her working style is that she can walk away from a demanding boss, should she so decide. Like many PAs, she is ultra-organised, but she is also, ultimately, in control - and that gives her an extra confidence. "I am not dependent on them for a

salary, so if they go bananas, you just say 'I am not going to pick up this rattle you've thrown down in a tantrum'. I couldn't sit for 40 hours a week in the same chair and take it all week."

She admits that she does, however, get a buzz out of impossible-sounding challenges. "Some bosses are bullies and almost resent the fact that you don't get frightened. I do enjoy being stretched, although some can be unbelievable."

"They are like animals: if they know they've got you on the run, they become monstrous. It's not a job for the faint-hearted: you have to be pretty confident. You wouldn't put an 18-year-old in these situations, because if you don't know what to do, you can panic. But if they trust you, they will let you do anything."

Pippa Driscoll finds that being a PA to a high-profile director has its own perks within the organisation. "It's very nice to work at this

level, and if you want something, you can get it without having to stamp your foot. If you say who it's for, it gets done, although you still have to treat everybody as equals, and keep everybody happy."

Working for extremely wealthy clients makes life easier for Francesmary Kay, because everything is on tap. "You simply pick up the phone and say 'Help!'. But it also demands a slightly different dynamic, she says. Tact is essential, as is an awareness that many are paying for a certain deference."

Once, she made the mistake of recommending a hotel which she believed to be excellent, but was well below the standard of luxury to which her clients were accustomed. "I stupidly said: 'You'll love it', but (the problem was that) I had been able to afford to stay there."

The relationship between a boss and his PA may appear relaxed but any informality should always be on the boss's terms, warns Kay. "You are never quite sure when that guillotine is going to drop." Second-guessing a client's thoughts is an essential skill to develop. Many of the upper-crust clients are even more fastidious - particularly about money - than others: they are the ones, says Ms Kay, who want to recycle their envelopes.

They can also be highly idiosyncratic. One client would not take on a certain personal assistant because she lived in Crouch End, rather than SW1: another tested potential assistants by bringing down his gun and extolling the joys of bloodsports.

She herself was even asked by a client for her hand in marriage, but declined because it would have meant giving up work, and she couldn't face being a lady who lunches. "I can't be bored - it would drive me completely demented. Nobody wants to work unless it's fun, and I get fulfilment from my work."



Freelance PA Francesmary Kay juggles calls - all part of her challenging job

Nicola Kurtz

WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A TOP PA

NOT FOR everyone the ascent from lowly clerical worker to top-flight executive organiser. Opinions differ on what sets the super-PA apart from the rest, but most are agreed that an outgoing, calm, flexible and efficient personality is a prerequisite.

A spokeswoman for one agency that places PAs with top directors says shorthand is still an ideal skill, as it is a more convenient and personal way of working.

Nothing, she says, can replace years of experience,

which develops skills in sensing what is needed and when; juggling different tasks to varying deadlines; prioritising without being told which task is more urgent; and being a calming, reassuring influence.

Other attributes are confidence, a charming manner when dealing with self-important associates - as well as your boss - and a willingness to put in the hours to get the job done. The super-PA knows that the back-up system must not fail.

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PECKHAM PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: Peckham Rye City Of Angels 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm Mad City 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Mimie 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.45pm Six Days, Seven Nights 4.35pm, 6.45pm, 9pm Soul Food 3.50pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm

PURLEY ABC (0870-902 0407) BR: Purley The Object Of My Affection 5.40pm Red Corner 8.20pm Six Days, Seven Nights 5.10pm, 8.10pm Sliding Doors 5.50pm, 8.40pm

PURNEY ABC (0870 902 0401) BR: Purney Bridge, BR: Purney, City Of Angels 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm The Object Of My Affection 1pm, 6pm Six Days, Seven Nights 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm The Wedding Singer 3.30pm, 8.30pm

RICHMOND ODEON STUDIO (0181-315 4218) BR: Richmond City Of Angels 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9pm The Object Of My Affection 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm Six Days, Seven Nights 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm The Wedding Singer 1.30pm, 4pm, 7pm, 9.30pm

ROMFORD ABC (0870-902 0419) BR: Romford Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 2.10pm, 5pm, 7.30pm The Object Of My Affection 2.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.15pm Six Days, Seven Nights 2.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (01709-729040) BR: Romford City Of Angels 12.40pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm Deep Impact 12.15pm, 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 12.30pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm Mad City 12.50pm, 3.15pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm Mimie 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm The Object Of My Affection 3.50pm, 8.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm Sliding Doors 3.30pm, 6.15pm The Wedding Singer 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

SIDCUP ABC (0541-555 131) BR: Sidcup Six Days, Seven Nights 2.30pm, 5.15pm, 8.30pm Sliding Doors 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.30pm

STAPLES CORNER VIRGIN (0870-907 0717) BR: Cricklewood City Of Angels 1.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm Mad City 3pm, 6pm, 8.45pm The Object Of My Affection 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm The Wedding Singer 2pm, 5.20pm, 8pm

STREATHAM ABC (0870-902 0415) BR: Streatham Hill Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 2.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm Mad City 2.25pm, 5.55pm, 8.45pm Sliding Doors 2.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.45pm

ODEON (0181-315 4219) BR: Streatham Hill/Braxton/Clapham Common Mimie 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm The Object Of My Affection 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Six Days, Seven Nights 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm Soul Food 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm The Wedding Singer 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

STRATFORD NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (0181-555 3366) BR: Stratford East City Of Angels 3.55pm, 9pm The Girl With Brains In Her Feet 2pm, 6.50pm Girls' Night 1.30pm, 6.30pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 4.35pm, 6.55pm, 9.15pm Burn In 7.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.40pm, 9.05pm Mimie 1.30pm, 4pm, 6pm, 8.30pm The Object Of My Affection 4.20pm, 6.50pm Six Days, Seven Nights 2.15pm, 4.35pm, 6.55pm, 9.15pm Soul Food 6.30pm

SUTTON UCI (0990-888 9901) BR: Sutton/Chorleywood City Of Angels 4.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Mad City 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Mimie 9.45pm The Object Of My Affection 6.15pm Six Days, Seven Nights 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm Sliding Doors 7.15pm The Wedding Singer 3.45pm, 8.45pm

TURNPIKE LANE CORONET (0181-888 2519) BR: Turnpike Lane Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 3.50pm, 6.20pm 3.55pm The Object Of My Affection 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

UXBRIDGE ODEON (01895-813 139) BR: Uxbridge Six Days, Seven Nights 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Sliding Doors 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

WALTHAMSTOW ABC (0870-902 0424) BR: Walthamstow Central City Of Angels 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm Mimie 3.50pm, 8.40pm The Object Of My Affection 2.00pm, 6pm Six Days, Seven Nights 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

WALTON ON THAMES THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01832-252859) BR: Walton on Thames Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 3.05pm, 6.05pm, 8.25pm Six Days, Seven Nights 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

WELL HALL CORONET (01850-33511) BR: Eilham The Object Of My Affection 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

WILLESDEAN BELLE-VUE (0181-830 0822) BR: Willesden Green Sliding Doors 4.30pm, 6.30pm 9pm

WIMBLEDON ODEON (0181-315 4222) BR: Wimbledon/Claydon/Wimbledon City Of Angels 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 1pm 3.50pm, 6pm, 8.30pm The Object Of My Affection 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm Sliding Doors 4pm, 8.45pm The Wedding Singer 2pm, 8.45pm

WOODFORD ABC (0181-889 34631) BR: South Woodford City Of Angels 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.25pm The Object Of My Affection 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

WOOLWICH CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR: Woolwich Arsenal Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm Six Days, Seven Nights 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

CINEMA
REPERTORY

LONDON CINE LUMIERE AT THE INSTITUT FRANCAIS Queensberry Place SW7 (0171-838 2144/2146) Le Hussard Sur Le Toit (NC) 7.30pm

ICA The Mall SW1 (0171-830 3847/cc 0171-930 3647) Organ (NC) 2.30pm, 8.30pm This Is Not An Exit: East London (NC) 5pm Smoke Signals (NC) 7pm Native American Shorts 2 (NC) 7pm Don't Look Back (NC) 9pm

NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-633 0274/cc 928 3232) Good Will Hunting (15) 2.30pm, 6.10pm A Story Of Floating Weeds: Yasujiro Ozu (NC) 6.15pm Berlin Airlift 1948-49: 50th Anniversary: Museum Special Event (NC) 7.30pm The Road To Fort Alamo: Fantasma: Mario Bava (NC) 7.30pm Madame Butterfly (PG) 8.30pm

PEPSI IMAX The Trocadero, Piccadilly Circus W1 (0171-494 4153) Across The Sea Of Time - A New York Adventure (3-D) (U) 11am, 1.05pm, 5.20pm L5-City In Space (NC) 12.10pm, 2.15pm, 4.25pm, 6.30pm, 8.25pm Everest (U) 3.20pm, 7.50pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place WC2 (0171-437 8181) The Rainmaker (15) 1pm The Man In The Iron Mask (12) 3.45pm Breakdown (15) 6.25pm L.A. Confidential (18) 8.45pm

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Crisp Road W6 (0181-237 1111) La Haine (15) 6.45pm + Nil By Mouth (18) 8.40pm

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE High Street, Brentford (0181-568 1176) Shift Upper Lips (15) 5pm City Of Angels (12) 5pm A Thousand Acres (15) 7pm

BRIGHTON DUKE OF YORK'S (01273-626261) Afterglow (15) 6.30pm Apartment (15) 2.15pm + In Colour En Hiver 4.30pm Sliding Blade (15) 9pm

BRISTOL WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) The General (15) 5.45pm, 8.30pm Salut Cousin! (15) 6pm Love And Death On Long Island (18) 8.20pm

CAMBRIDGE ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444) Love And Death On Long Island (15) 12.30pm, 7pm The Apostle (12) 2.30pm, 9.15pm Point Blank (18) 5pm

CARDIFF CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-399666) Amistad (15) 6.15pm Love And Death On Long Island (15) 7.30pm My Son The Fanatic (15) 2.30pm, 8pm

CHICHESTER NEW PARK FILM CENTRE (01243-786650) The Wedding Singer (12) 9.15pm Regeneration (15) 4pm Good Will Hunting (15) 6.30pm

IPSWICH FILM THEATRE (01473-215544) The Apostle (12) 6pm, 8.30pm Wild Man Blues (12) 6pm Mother And Son (U) 8.15pm

NORWICH CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) Great Expectations (15) 6.15pm Spice Girls: Shorts (NC) 5.45pm

PLYMOUTH ARTS CENTRE (01752-206114) The Hanging Garden (15) 8pm

CINEMA
COUNTRYWIDE

BRISTOL ANROLFINI (0117-929 9191) Ponette (15) Side Story (PG)

CINEMAWORLD THE MOVIES (01275-831099) City Of Angels (12) Six Days, Seven Nights (12) Star Kid (PG) 101 Dalmatians (U) Kiss Or Kill (13) Scream 2 (18) Titanic (12) Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) (PG) Blues Brothers 2000 (PG) Wishmaster 18: Deep Impact (12) The Big Lebowski (12) Dark City (12) Anastasia (U) Mousetrap (PG) Sliding Doors (15) The Wedding Singer (12) Godzilla (PG) Ghauri Baharwal (PG) Mimie (15) The Object Of My Affection (15) Jurassic Park (PG) Ghulam (PG) Mad City (15)

ORPHEUS HENLEAZE (0171-962 1644) Godzilla (PG) Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) (PG) The Wedding Singer (12) Six Days, Seven Nights (12)

ODEON (0117-929 0822) Ulee's Gold (15) Grease (12) Six Days, Seven Nights (12) The Object Of My Affection (15) Paws (PG) Godzilla (PG) The Wedding Singer (12) Free Willy 3: The Rescue (U)

ABC WHITEHALLS ROAD (0171-972 3640) City Of Angels (12) Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) (PG) Mad City (12)

OXFORD ABC GEORGE STREET (0541-550501) Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) (PG) Mousetrap (PG) City Of Angels (12) Six Days, Seven Nights (12) The Object Of My Affection (15)

PHOENIX PICTURE HOUSE (01865-554908) Love And Death On Long Island (15) Kurt & Courtney (15) The Wings Of The Dove (15) Tom & Viv (15) The People Vs Larry Flynt (15) Men In Black (PG) Sliding Blade (15) Amy Foster (12) The Jungle Book (U)

SALISBURY ODEON (01722-415285) Godzilla (PG) Mimie (15) The Secret Garden (U) City Of Angels (12) The Wedding Singer (12) Jungle 2 Jungle (15) The Object Of My Affection (15) Sliding Doors (15) Beethoven (U) Six Days, Seven Nights (12) Mousetrap (PG)

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ART Richard Griffiths, Tony Haygarth, Malcolm Story in Yasmina Reza's comedy about art and friendship. Wyndham's Theatre Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736/cc 867 1111) Leicester Square, Tue-Sat 8pm, mats Wed 3pm, Sat 3pm, Sun 2.50-£27.50, 90 mins.

AS YOU LIKE IT Shakespeare's literary comedy contrasting the court and the natural world. The Globe New Globe Walk, SE1 (0171-401 9919) London Bridge. In rep. today 2pm, ends 8 Sep, £5-£20, concs available: 180 mins.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Lavish family musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the favourite fairy tale. Dominion Theatre Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-456 1888) Tottenham Court Road, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm, £17.50-£32.50, 150 mins.

BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Russell's long-running musical melodrama. Phoenix Theatre Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733) Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Tue 3pm, Sat 4pm, £10.50-£29.50, 165 mins.

BUDDY Musical biog-show tracing the life of Buddy Holly. Strand Theatre Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800) Covent Garden/Charing Cross, Tue-Thu 8pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30pm, mats Sun 4pm, £6.75-£30, 160 mins.

CATS Lloyd Webber's musical version of T.S. Eliot's poems. New London Theatre Parker Street, WC2 (0171-405 0072/cc 404 4079) Covent Garden/Holborn, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Tue & Sat 3pm, £12.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

CHICAGO Ruthie Henshall stars in this hit Broadway musical. Adelphi Theatre Maiden Lane, WC2 (0171-344 0055) Charing Cross, Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm, £16-£36 (inc booking fee), 130 mins.

CLOSER Superb study of contemporary sexual relationships from Dealer's Choice author Patrick Marber. Lyric Theatre Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) Piccadilly Circus, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £12.50-£27.50, 140 mins.

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) Reduced Shakespeare Company fast-forward through 37 plays. Criterion Theatre Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1747) Piccadilly Circus, Wed-Sat 7.30pm, mats Tue 3pm, Sat 5pm, Sun 4pm, £9.50-£20, 120 mins.

DR. DOLITTLE Philip Schofield talks to the animals in this new stage adaptation featuring Jim Henson Puppets. Labatt's Apollo Hammersmith Theatre, W6 (0171-416 6022) Hammersmith, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm, £10-£32.50, 150 mins.

GREASE Marissa Dunlop stars in the stage version of the hit film. Cambridge Theatre Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-494 5080) Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £10-£30, 150 mins.

HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE Paul Vogel's drama about an incestuous relationship between a teenager and her uncle. Donmar Warehouse Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1733) Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Tue & Sat 4pm, ends 8 Aug, £12-£16, concs available: 95 mins.

THE ICEMAN COMETH Kevin Spacey stars in Eugene O'Neill's classic play about the power of dreams. Old Vic The Old Vic, 92-93 St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-923 7616/cc 420 0000) BRV Waterloo, Mon-Sat 7pm, mats Sat 1.30pm, ends 1 Aug, £5-£30, 180 mins.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Christopher Cazenove and Kate O'Mara in Peter Hall's acclaimed production of Wilde's comedy. Albany Theatre St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1720/cc 967 1111) Leicester Square, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Tue 3pm, Sat 4pm, ends 22 Aug, £7.50-£29.50, 165 mins.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen D'Arcy's andy-acclaimed production of J.B. Priestley's thriller. Garrick Theatre Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) Leicester Square, Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 5.15pm, mats Wed 2.30pm, Sat 5pm, £10.50-£25, 110 mins.

KAT AND THE KINGS Musical set in 1950s Cape Town. Vaudeville Theatre Strand WC2 (0171-936 9297) BR Charing Cross Road, Mon-Sat 7.45pm & 9.30pm, mats Tue 5.15pm, Wed 5.30pm, £12.50-£27.50, 130 mins.

A LETTER OF RESIGNATION Hugh Whitemore's play about the Puritan altar and political morality. Savoy Theatre Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8382/cc 236 0479) Charing Cross, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Wed 3pm, Sat 4pm, £12.50-£25, 125 mins.

MAJOR BARBARA Jenna Redgrave and Peter Boetjes star. Piccadilly Theatre Denham Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) Piccadilly Circus, In rep. tonight 7.45pm, continuing, £5.50-£27.50, 180 mins.

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE Shakespeare's cross-cultural comedy. The Globe New Globe Walk, SE1 (0171-401 9919) London Bridge. In rep. tonight 7.45pm, ends 19 Sep, £5-£20, concs available: 180 mins.

LES MISERABLES Musical dramatisation of Victor Hugo's masterpiece. Palace Theatre Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-434 0908) Piccadilly Circus, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Tue & Sat 2.30pm, £7-£32.50, 195 mins.

MISS SAIGON Musical which tells the Vietnam Butterfly tragedy to Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5080) Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Tue & Sat 3pm, £5.75-£32.50, 165 mins.

THE MOUSETRAP Agatha Christie's whodunnit. St Martin's Theatre West Street, WC2 (0171-638 1443) Leicester Square, Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Tue 2.45pm, Sat 5pm, £9-£23, 135 mins.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING Declan Donnell directs Cheek by Jowl in a new production of Shakespeare's classic. Playhouse Theatre Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (0171-839 4401/cc 316 4747) Embankment, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Tue & Sat 2.30pm, ends 25 Jul, £10-£22, 120 mins.

THE OLD NEIGHBOURHOOD David Mamet's new play is directed by Patrick Marber. Royal Court Theatre (at the Duke of York's) St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-565 5000) Leicester Square/Charing Cross, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Sat 3.30pm, £5-£19.50, benches 10p, Mon - all seats £5, 90 mins.

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical. Her Majesty's Theatre Haymarket, SW1 (0171-494 5400/cc 344 4444) Piccadilly Circus, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £10-£32.50, 150 mins.

POPCORN Lawrence Boswell directs Ben Elton's satire on cinema violence. Apollo Theatre Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) Piccadilly Circus, Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Wed 3pm, Sat 4pm, £6.50-£23.50, 150 mins.

THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND & BLACK COLOURED Double bill of drama from Tom Stoppard and Peter Schaffer, directed by Gregory Doran. Comedy Theatre Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) Piccadilly Circus/Leicester Square, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £7.50-£27.50, 165 mins.

RENT Musical inspired by La Bohème and set in modern day New York. Shaftesbury Theatre Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5399) Holborn/Tottenham Court Road, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £12.50-£32.50, 160 mins.

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE OLIVER! Oklahoma! Rodgers and Hammerstein's classic musical featuring the song On What A Beautiful Mornin'. In rep. tonight 7pm, ends 3 Oct.

LYTTLETON: The London Cuckolds Ravenscroft's Restoration comedy in a new version by Terry Johnson. In rep. tonight 7.30pm, ends 1 Aug, 195 mins.

COTTELL'S Copenhagen New drama from Michael Frayn about the discovery of the atom. In rep. tonight 7.30pm, continuing, 145 mins. Oliver & Lyttelton: £8-£27, Oklahoma!: £12-£32.50, Cottesloe: £12-£18, South Bank, SE1 (0171-452 3000) Embankment.

SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER In the 1970s musical featuring songs by the Bee Gees, including the new tracks. London Palladium Argyll Street, W1 (0171-494 5020) Oxford Circus, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm, £10-£32.50, 135 mins.

SHAKESPEARE'S VILLAGES Steven Berkoff's study of all in Shakespeare. The Royal Haymarket Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800) Piccadilly Circus, Tue-Sat 8.15pm, mats Sat 5pm, ends 8 Aug, £8-£17.50, concs £10, 70 mins.

SHOW BOAT Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein's musical set on the Mississippi. Prince Edward Theatre Old Compton Street, W1 (0171-447 5400) Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Tue & Sat 3pm, £10-£32.50, 135 mins.

SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE & THE SONGS OF LEIBER AND STOLLER The rock and roll hitmakers celebrated in a musical revue that includes Jailhouse Rock, Prince of Wales, Theatre Coventry Street, W1 (0171-439 6971) Leicester Square/Piccadilly Circus, Mon-Thru 8pm, Fri 5.45pm & 8.30pm, Sat 3pm & 8pm, £15-£32.50, Fri male £10-£25, 135 mins.

STARLIGHT EXPRESS Andrew Lloyd Webber's hit-tech roller-musical. Apollo Victoria Theatre, SW1 (0171-494 5070) Piccadilly Circus, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Tue & Sat 3pm, £12.50-£30, 150 mins.

SWEET CHARITY Bonnie Langford stars in this classic musical featuring the numbers Ray Charles and the Blind Boys of Alabama. Victoria Palace Theatre, W1 (0171-434 1317) Piccadilly Circus, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Wed & Sat 3pm, £15-£30, 160 mins.

THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE Jane Asher stars in Alan Ayckbourn's comedy. Gielgud Theatre Chesham Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5063) Piccadilly Circus, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Tue & Sat 3pm, £10-£27.50, 140 mins.

TROILUS AND CRESSIDA Shakespeare's classic tale of love and war. The Swan Theatre, Swan Lane, W1 (0171-494 5063) Piccadilly Circus, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Fri 5.45pm & 8.30pm, Sat 3pm & 8pm, £15-£32.50, Fri male £10-£25, 135 mins.

THE UNEXPECTED MAN Richard Redd's follow-up to Art is a drama about a novelist and a life-long admirer. Michael Gambon and Enid Aikater. Duchess Theatre Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5075) Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Wed 4pm, Sat 5pm, £10-£25, 100 mins.

WHAT YOU GET AND WHAT YOU EXPECT Acerbic look at a generation bent on success from Jean-Marie Besset. Lyric Hammersmith King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311) Hammersmith, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Sat 2.30pm, ends 8 Aug, £10-£14, concs available.

WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND Lloyd Webber's new musical based on the film of the same name about two children who mistake an escaped convict for Jesus. Aldwych Theatre Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6022) Holborn, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Tue & Sat 3pm, £10-£32.50, 120 mins.

THE WOMAN IN BLACK Susan Hill's chilling ghost story. Fortune Theatre Russell Street, WC2 (0171-836 2238/cc 344 4444) Covent Garden/Holborn, Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Tue 3pm, Sat 4pm, £8.50-£23.50, 110 mins.

THEATRE
BEYOND THE WEST END

HAMPSTEAD THEATRE After Darwin Timbierake Wertheimer's dramatisation of the clash between believers in natural selection and believers in religious humanism stars Colin Salmon. Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Sat 3.30pm, ends 22 Aug, £9-£15, Avenue Road, NW3 (0171-722 9301) Swiss Cottage.

SOUTHWARK PLAYHOUSE The Venetian Twins Classic Italian comedy which tells a similar story to Comedy Of Errors. Mon-Sat 7.3



THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

TELEVISION REVIEW

WEAT would reporters do without the word "tommy"? That amphibious term which swears between the present and the future, the probable and the remote, the possible and the unlikely? Over the last two months - at what amount to an informal festival of midland enigmas - we have been told that disaffected Soviet missile operators "could" launch an attack without authority in "Russian Roulette" and that secret biological weapons "could" devastate entire populations" (in Fawcett's report on germ warfare research programmes in the former Soviet Union). Both programmes shared the same portentous manner - sequenced voice-overs (Fawcett and Tom Sutcliffe) respectively, ominous soundtracks and shots of the desolate Russian landscape which might breed these man-made armageddons. Both also decided to admit any sceptical voices, while conceding that the prospect of a nuclear war with the little cold logic of these things could happen. It's true. But how likely is it that they will?

Manor's *Pravda* included one sequence in which a biological weapons expert commented on the possible effects of a terrorist attack on London using home-made anthrax. His speculation was that two-thirds of the population might be affected, an astonishingly high figure given the difficulty of disseminating biological agents, but there was no expert on hand to calm the nerves or contradict. And when Manor interviewed a manifestly crazed while supremacist, arrested recently for attempting to get hold of plague cultures, the sense of having taken a wrong turning into an apocalyptic theme park was intensified. There are people one might like to see seriously on this subject, but a man who thinks the world is on the brink of biblical calamity is not exactly an unimpressive witness.

Manor made a more convincing case for the claim that official Soviet research had continued in secret after agreements designed to end germ warfare programmes, and that there are some vile things currently brewing in secret laboratories. But even

here, there were doubts about the exact nature of the evidence. Ken Aldrich, a high-level defector from the Russian biological weapons programme, was cited as saying that the Russians were now trying to combine smallpox and Ebola, but he didn't reveal how he knew, and the project seemed oddly redundant anyway, given that either disease will kill you perfectly satisfactorily on its own. The rest of one Russian expert about the truth is the grabbing a bar of soap in the shower - had a wider application than he perhaps intended.

If the vision of London examined with the dead and dying didn't press your panic button, then the prospect of a one billion bomb going off in Piccadilly Circus might have done. The alternative scenario was proposed in *Evolution's* (C4) slightly more sober examination of the deceptively state of Russia's nuclear defences - systems that are possibly more dangerous now than they were during the most rigid stretches of the Cold War. Apparently, the Russians constructed 132 antineutrino nuclear bombs and can now build only 48 of them. It's possible that those responsible for making them in the first place lied about how many they had produced - "merely" about output being a venerable Soviet tradition - but it is more satisfactory to see to think of them out there somewhere, being juggled around by some black-martecher or opportunist criminal (Alan Rickman for the film role). I wasn't sure either about the implication that the Russian two-year launch procedure could be circumvented by one man giving another the key - since a two-key system which allowed that would be utterly pointless. More solidly understating was the general sense of deceptiveness and disaffection in the Strategic Rocket Force, Russia's nuclear elite. Like explosives, emptiness can be more dangerous when they become invisible, and the possibility of a disaster arising out of incompetence or indifference is a real one. But it would have been nice, given the importance of the subject matter in both cases, to have had documentarists with a larger element of serious critical analysis, and a smaller element of homebody thriller.

BBC1

6.00 **Business Breakfast** (0552) 7.00 **News** (0577) 8.00 **At over the Shop** (0582) 9.20 **Killy** (0582) 10.20 **Bye Bye Challenge** (0582) 10.45 **Short Circuit** (0582) 11.00 **News** (0582) 11.15 **Regional News** (0582) 11.30 **News** (0582) 11.45 **Regional News** (0582) 12.00 **News** (0582) 12.15 **Regional News** (0582) 12.30 **News** (0582) 12.45 **Regional News** (0582) 1.00 **News** (0582) 1.15 **Regional News** (0582) 1.30 **News** (0582) 1.45 **Regional News** (0582) 1.55 **Regional News** (0582) 2.00 **News** (0582) 2.15 **Regional News** (0582) 2.30 **News** (0582) 2.45 **Regional News** (0582) 3.00 **News** (0582) 3.15 **Regional News** (0582) 3.30 **News** (0582) 3.45 **Regional News** (0582) 4.00 **News** (0582) 4.15 **Regional News** (0582) 4.30 **News** (0582) 4.45 **Regional News** (0582) 5.00 **News** (0582) 5.15 **Regional News** (0582) 5.30 **News** (0582) 5.45 **Regional News** (0582) 6.00 **News** (0582) 6.15 **Regional News** (0582) 6.30 **News** (0582) 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